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PM: Golan is not negotiable

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

The Golan Heights must remain in Israel's hands because of its strategic, historic and economic importance, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a French newspaper.

The future of Jerusalem, too, "will never be negotiated," the Paris daily *Le Figaro* quoted Netanyahu as saying in an interview published yesterday.

But Netanyahu also said he could envision a Palestinian state, provided the term "state" is carefully defined to protect Israeli interests and security.

"We neither want to govern them nor interfere with their existence," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "But we desire to not find ourselves in a position that threatens our lives and our future."

Asked whether the future of the Golan Heights is negotiable, Netanyahu replied: "Absolutely not. We have to keep the Golan for strategic, historic and economic reasons."

"Why should we abandon our water resources? We can live without petroleum, but we can't deprive ourselves of water," Netanyahu said.

In Damascus yesterday, a Syrian official reiterated Damascus's demand that Israel accept the principle of withdrawing from the Golan Heights before talks resume between the two countries.

"The talks will not resume until the current Israeli government accepts the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the pre-war June 4, 1967, border lines," one official told Reuters.

Meanwhile, Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam returned home from Cairo after talks with Egyptian leaders on how to boost Arab solidarity, officials said. Khaddam was accompanied by Foreign Minister Farouk Shara. Syrian officials said that Khaddam, who met President Hossni Mubarak during the visit, "discussed the situation and means of reaching a joint Arab action."

Damascus state-run radio, in an implicit reference to the Hebron deal, said that by signing the deal Netanyahu was trying to delude the world and show that he is a man of peace.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said he expects the peace negotiations with Syria to resume shortly, now that the Hebron redeployment has been carried out.

"I hope that within a very short time we will have a new situation where the leader of Syria and the leader of Israel can sit together, discuss the subject and find a solution for the problem," Mordechai said.

Speaking to reporters while monitoring the first day of IDF redeployment in Hebron, Mordechai said Israel was interested in returning to the negotiating table.

"Every day we are asking President [Hafez] Assad and the government of Syria to come forward to continue the negotiations and to find a solution for the problem between Israel and Syria," Mordechai said.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher called on Netanyahu on Friday to test Syria's willingness to make peace.

In a farewell interview, Christopher said Netanyahu's agreement with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to withdraw Israeli troops on the West Bank could prompt an

US tracking Syrian Scuds

US Navy intelligence has detected a number of Scud missile launches by the Syrians recently, raising concerns that the testing program could lead to the use of chemical warheads, according to a report in *Jane's Defence Weekly*.

The London-based weekly said the launches were picked up by US Navy cruisers with special radar equipment.

Syria has some 62 Scud missile launchers and an estimated 200-300 Scud missiles in its arsenal, according to the *Middle East Military Balance* published by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Arieh O'Sullivan

accord with Syria.

"He's crossed an important threshold," Christopher said.

He compared Netanyahu's dealings with Arafat to a similar transformation by the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who cut two deals with Arafat and shook hands with him on the White House lawn.

Christopher complimented Netanyahu for dealing with Arafat.

"The prime minister has recognized a need for pragmatism in the situation," Christopher said.

On all fronts, he said, "there is no doubt this will improve the relationship between Israel and the rest of the Arab world."

Arab countries will be encouraged by Netanyahu's acceptance of a road map for a pullback in Hebron and elsewhere on the West Bank, Christopher said.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected to visit Hebron this morning and address the townspeople from the former IDF military headquarters.

According to Palestinian security sources, Arafat will arrive around noon by helicopter and will leave in the evening.

Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, said the Palestinian security forces are prepared for Arafat's visit to Hebron and are in control of the situation.

"The settlers will not dare to harm a Palestinian while we are here," Rajoub said.

Settler spokesman Noam Arnon said the Jewish community in Hebron is not planning any demonstration to coincide with Arafat's expected visit to the city.

"Arafat's presence in Hebron is the government's problem, not ours," Arnon said.

Crowds gathered at the Imara (military headquarters), now the headquarters of the Palestinian Police, which was decorated with a Palestinian banner, and also at a high school to hear Rajoub, who may move his headquarters to the town.

He warned the opposition - Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which together are stronger than Arafat's Fatah faction in Hebron - that "they are free to oppose, but must observe the rules of democracy."

Then he turned to the settlers, saying, "Part of our city is still

Ross: Israel to determine redeployment lines, Page 2

wounded, is still under occupation and there are 400 settlers in our heart in Hebron. We tell them sincerely that their place is not with us."

"They are big stones on our chest, so we have to take them off," he said to wild cheers and applause from the crowd.

"Today we are celebrating the liberation of most of Hebron," said Transportation Minister Ali Kawasmi, according to AP. "But another part is still under occupation. So we will struggle, both the government and the people, in order to liberate the rest of Hebron."

Arnon described Rajoub's words as "incitement" and called on the government to arrest Rajoub.

"Jibril Rajoub called for the expulsion of the Jews," Hebron spokesman David Wilder said, citing an Israel Radio report. "This is tantamount to incitement to murder. It is not unexpected, but it is very distressing."

Arnon noted that section 7 of the protocol on Hebron states, "Both sides reiterate their commitment to maintain normal life throughout the city of Hebron and to prevent any provocation or friction that may affect the normal life in the city." Rajoub's statements, Arnon said, are a flagrant violation of this clause.

"This gives us an indication of

Continued on Page 2

Arafat due to arrive in Hebron today



An elderly Palestinian couple dances during a celebration in Hebron yesterday in honor of the newly deployed Palestinian police. (AP)

Hebron redeployment, Day 1

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

It didn't take long for the redeployment to be tested. At noon on Friday, just six hours after the IDF's Hebron brigade commander, Col. Gadi, handed over command of the military headquarters to his Palestinian counterpart, the IDF clamped a curfew on the casbah and dispersed Palestinians throwing stones and other objects at Israeli forces after a scuffle erupted.

The protest moved to an alley behind Beit Hadassah on the border between Palestinian and Israeli controlled parts of the city. About 100 Hamas supporters hurled stones and firecrackers at IDF soldiers. The soldiers reportedly consulted with the Palestinian Police, who detained a number of the youths.

Shortly before the incidents, Col. Gadi was explaining to foreign reporters why the transfer

had gone over so smoothly.

"Redeployment is a very long process," Col. Gadi said. "We want to start on the right foot and there is a mutual interest to keep this city quiet."

Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said the true test of redeployment was not to be judged by immediate events.

"The true test is what will happen from today onward and how the Israelis and Palestinians will live in the future. We have a long future to live together here," he said.

"Just a few hundred meters from here Palestinians are in complete control. We hope and expect this responsibility will be kept," Shahak said while visiting the city on Friday.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also showed up by mid-morning to supervise the redeployment.

"We are not naive [enough] to think that there won't be any problems. There will be, but the military [forces] deployed here have all the capabilities to deal with any problems so that in the end we will be able to ensure that the Jewish community here will be able to thrive," Mordechai said.

Competing with the call of the muezzin to Moslem prayers, Mordechai praised the American diplomats who helped seal the Hebron deal, as well as Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein.

A Palestinian reporter shouted out, "You don't thank Yasser Arafat?"

"Yeah, everybody, including Yasser Arafat too," Mordechai responded.

In the area known as H-1, which is still under

Continued on Page 2

Saddam blasts Israel, US

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein marked the sixth anniversary on Friday of the start of the Gulf War with a tirade against the United States and Israel.

In a speech broadcast on Iraqi radio and television, Saddam, dressed in military uniform, likened the allied forces and Israel to the "front of Satans."

Then US President George Bush was "the leader of the group of vice and aggression," Saddam said.

Official newspapers praised the

"mother of battles" and state radio and television broadcast national songs and boasted of Iraq's Scud attacks on Israel during the war.

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Ross: Israel will decide extent of redeployments

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross affirmed Friday that Israel alone will determine the extent of its three redeployments over the next year and a half.

At the same time, he indicated that those moves could serve to build confidence between Israel and the Palestinian Authority as they head into final-status negotiations on their ultimate borders.

"The issue of further redeployment, under the terms of the interim agreement, is an Israeli responsibility," Ross told reporters in his first public comments since returning from brokering Wednesday's Hebron agreement.

The third redeployment, no later than mid-1998, is meant to allow for a "time frame that is sufficiently far in advance of the end of the interim period" that it allows final-status talks

to "take into account the results of the further redeployment," he said.

"Borders and further redeployment are not necessarily synonymous," Ross said.

"... Our focus has been ... creating the time frame so that you can have a level of confidence that the permanent status talks can be discussed in a context where the further redeployment has taken place."

The statements appear to reinforce Israel's demand, achieved in the Hebron agreement, that it not be pinned down to specified territorial compromise in advance of final-status talks, while also reassuring the PA that what it receives in the three stages may not be the end of Israeli withdrawals.

Ross also emphasized that while the US served as a "mediator" to achieve the Hebron deal and remains ready to assist as needed, the

parties should resume direct talks.

"In the long run, it's not the kind of role that we want to be playing," he said. "We will stay heavily involved, we will do whatever is required in this process, but it will always be most important for the parties themselves to be able to identify the problems and solve them themselves."

The Hebron agreement "creates a new baseline for them in terms of being able to work together, and the more they can work together, the better it's going to be for everybody."

He also stated that the US was not keeping secret Secretary of State Warren Christopher's side letter to PA chairman Yasser Arafat, but that it is maintaining its policy of not releasing such letters.

The PA has decided to keep the letter private, but in any case, Israel was briefed on its contents, he said.

Sharon calls for national unity in advance of final status talks

By SARAH HOMIG

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon renewed his call over the weekend for a national unity government.

Sharon has been advocating a broad coalition for several months and has been holding regular meetings with Labor leader Shimon Peres, who is the one most keenly interested in a coalition partnership with the Likud.

Around Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, Sharon's latest pronouncement was doused with cold water. In the Likud it is argued that Sharon's remarks stem from his increasing frustration inside the government, including not being consulted about the Hebron agreement.

Speaking on Channel 1 and 2 weekend newscasts, Sharon said "a broad coalition could prevent a situation in which essentially one man decides. It doesn't matter who the man is. It's nothing personal."

Sharon argued that "it would be highly desirable, if possible, to reach a broad national consensus in

which, admittedly, no side would be able to realize all of its objectives. The problems ahead are even more difficult and complex than what we have just come through."

Sharon was apparently hinting at the scheduled mid-March beginning of the permanent status talks, where presumably the government would have an easier time resisting excessive Arab demands if it could count on broad support.

Sharon expressed the hope that he "would take a greater part in the coming negotiations. I had not been made party to the policy-making thus far and I feel that had I been part of the team we could have come up with a far better deal, with greater security for Hebron's Jews. I am convinced that Jews must be in Hebron or there would be no access to the Machpela Cave, to the ancient cemeteries and to other Jewish holy sites."

He disliked the fact that "there was a lot of gloating among a section of Israeli public opinion when the Hebron pullback was carried out. It is OK to hold different opinions but there is no justifi-

cation for Jews to exult when they relinquish so central a spot in their homeland and national heritage. There is something masochistic and sick in the rejoicing over an event that should inspire sorrow in Jewish hearts, regardless of whatever politics one subscribes to."

Netanyahu's senior adviser David Bar-Ilan said last night that "while national consensus is necessary, on the basic issues of the permanent settlement, there is no need to cement that consensus in a broad coalition."

In Labor, opinions are split about the likelihood of a national unity coalition. All sides agree that the initiative must come from Netanyahu, but some say that the fact he has safely surmounted the Hebron hurdle makes the national unity option far less likely.

Others in Labor point to the March start of the final status deliberations as the date on which Netanyahu might appeal to Labor to join his government, so he may head the broadest possible coalition against Arab and international pressure.



Visions of the future

Jamal Aitzem Battash, an 11-year-old Hebron boy, tries out advanced ophthalmological equipment under the guidance of Prof. Shaul Merin, a senior ophthalmologist, at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Karem on Friday. Battash was recently interviewed on Channel 1 and said he wanted to become an eye doctor. Hadassah managed to locate him with the help of the civil administration and set up the tour.

(Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Avi Elayon)

Beit Sahur man dies in Bethlehem prison

Autopsy reveals possible torture

By JON HIRSHFELD

A Beit Sahur man who had been held in Bethlehem jail for a year on suspicion of murder died there Friday, and an autopsy indicated that he may have been tortured.

He was the eleventh man to die in a Palestinian prison since suicide began in May 1994, Faysal Qumsiyeh, 53, a driver, married with six children, was arrested in February last year to investigate suspicions against him concerning the death of a Beit Sahur boy, Bassam Rajoubawi, in 1991.

Because 15 years had passed he

could not be tried due to the statute of limitations, said Bassam Eid of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group.

However prison authorities said he confessed to involvement in the murder and was only kept in jail to protect him against possible revenge by the boy's family.

Qumsiyeh had been a member of the Village Leagues, a group of rural mukhtars encouraged by the Civil Administration as an alternative to the PLO. Members were considered by many Palestinians to be collaborators.

The autopsy was conducted by

four doctors, two appointed by the Palestinian Authority and two by the family, after Qumsiyeh was brought to Al-Husseini Hospital in Beit Jalla already dead.

An X-ray revealed that he had a broken left hand. His wife said she had seen him a few hours before his death and he had looked like he was in good condition. However, his family said he also had suffered from heart problems for two years, and had received medical attention during that time. Autopsy findings were transferred to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute for further examination.

Merom supports Barak for Labor leadership

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MK Hagai Merom (Labor) announced yesterday that he supports MK Ehud Barak in the contest for the Labor leadership and to be the party's candidate for prime minister.

Speaking on Channel 1's *Shabbat Game*, Merom said he reached this decision after serious consideration, during which he fluctuated between supporting Barak or MK Yossi Beilin. Both Merom and Beilin are members of "The Eight" — a group of dovish MKs which formed around MK Haim Ramon several years ago.

Merom said he had a problem deciding "between my heart and my head. In the end I went with my head, which says Barak is the best candidate Labor can present in order to win in the year 2000. My heart is with Beilin, a personal and political friend."

He said his decision to support Barak will not lead to the breakdown of "The Eight."

Merom recounted that he and Ramon once had a similar dilemma in deciding between Shimon Peres or Yitzhak Rabin for the party's leadership and although both had "grown in Peres's flower bed, we transferred our allegiance to Rabin for this reason [that he had the best chance of beating the Likud in the 1992 Knesset elections]."

Merom said he is conducting talks with three or four Likud MKs "who state explicitly that they have no problem with withdrawing from the entire Golan as part of a peace process with Syria." He noted that the talks were not in an official capacity, like those led by Beilin and MK Michael Elitan (Likud).

Ramon, who appeared in the same program, predicted an ideological earthquake which will lead to a political earthquake, in the wake of the Oslo agreement, "providing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu keeps the agreement and doesn't try to evade it."

Ramon said that the historic confrontation between the two major ideological streams — the Labor and Revisionist movements — has ended now that a Revisionist prime minister has signed the agreement for the evacuation of Hebron and other parts of Eretz Yisrael.

Ramon said that Merom was making a mistake in supporting Barak at this stage, "because his decision is based on a wrong assumption. Nobody knows what Israeli politics will look like in the year 2000, what Labor's structure will be then and who will be its candidate." He added that if Barak is still the leading candidate in 1999, then he too would support him.

ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

recently reopened, remained closed until today and settlers were able to walk the 200 yards from the Machpela Cave to Avraham Avinu without encountering crowds of Palestinians shopping, as they were yesterday. As they have done on Shabbat in the past, the settlers danced in front of the tomb and all the way to Avraham Avinu.

Reuter photographer Mazen Dana lodged a complaint with Israeli police after a settler hit him with the butt of a rifle and broke his finger.

Three hours after the town was officially handed over to the PA at 6 a.m. on Friday, Palestinian traffic police in blue uniforms were busy directing cars at Glass Square, the scene of several deadly attacks on settlers in the past.

The banner headline of *Hayot al-Jadida*, the newspaper closest to the PA said "Hebron Liberated" in red, but added that there was no visible excitement.

Some said this is because Arafat always has had less support in Hebron than in other Palestinian towns and Fatah is less organized there, others because the IDF redeployment is only partial, because it was Ramadan and because the Hebron talks have left everyone exhausted.

Downtown it was difficult to go

far without encountering an Israeli checkpoint, sometimes in the middle of a market, and even the soldiers did not know where the exact borders of H-1 and H-2 were. Palestinians however, avoided them, and in some cases, such as the area between the market and Beit Romano, they were not allowed to cross the checkpoints.

"I live in H-1 and also have a home in H-2. I don't like this, it will be like Berlin was," Tawfiq Fawzi said. "They have given me my body but they have stolen my heart. My heart is in the holy places. There are so many settlers with guns, so many soldiers."

A young policeman came and pushed the crowd near the casbah. "Shove off from here," he said in Hebrew slang.

"They just make us nervous for no reason," Fawzi said.

"We would like to forget the past and all the problems, open a new page, but it is difficult to live with these settlers unless they can live as equals," merchant Assam Bidu said.

Lamia Lahoud contributed to this report.

Apology

Moshe Arens resigned as chairman of Zim and was not a "casualty" of Zim's reorganization program as reported Friday. We apologize for the error.

DAY 1

Continued from Page 1

IDF control, tensions were high.

On Shuhada Street, known to the Jewish residents of Hebron as King David Street, a group of Palestinian teenagers swaggered by about a half dozen Jewish yeshiva students, taunting and insulting them as they passed.

"I swear the next one who says something to me will receive a slap in the face from me," one of the students said.

Yesterday IDF forces and police continued to patrol the streets, and closed off the downtown to Palestinian traffic, causing large traffic jams across the city.

The redeployment was a low-key informal affair, catching the city with the first rays of sun at 6:10 Friday.

During the night, IDF troops trickled out of the military headquarters so that by dawn only a small contingent of border policemen and the IDF Hebron Brigade commander remained. Col. Gadi Naiche, the Palestinian commander of the city, and the two jumped into their jeeps and drove off down the narrow road.

Shortly later, Palestinian forces in dark-blue uniforms virtually charged into the compound and as word spread jubilant local residents, some in pajamas, began pouring into the former IDF base. Busloads of Palestinian police-

men later arrived flashing the "V" sign as fireworks, Roman candles and skyrockets crackled in the morning sky.

A man shimmered up the large antenna, practically the only piece of equipment the IDF left behind, and unfurled the Palestinian flag as the crowd below shouted "Allahu Akbar."

One elderly man cried with disbelief as Palestinian Police marched toward the fortress.

"This is the happiest day of my life. I have waited for 30 years to witness this moment," he screamed before collapsing into their arms.

For Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security Service, taking control of the headquarters was particularly moving.

"I was detained here for five times as a prisoner. This is the first time I enter as a free man," Rajoub said.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uri Dayan said joint patrols were moving ahead as scheduled, but making the redeployment agreement work was not going to be easy.

"This is not an easy place from the security point of view. There are a lot of potential threats, but this is our mission — to provide security for the people living in this city," Dayan said.

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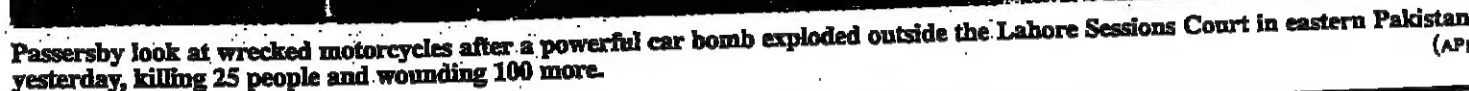
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IN JERUSALEM

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Bomb experts at the scene said that at least five kilograms of explosive material was used.

"There was smoke everywhere and everywhere there was blood and bodies," he said.

The explosion brought severe calls for the interim government both in the Punjab province and Islamabad to resign. The governments were appointed last November when Benazir Bhutto's administration was sacked.

remained "legally and morally necessary." "Cases of all kinds collapse from time to time because a defendant is found unfit to be tried by reason of physical or mental incapacity...That is not to say that all elderly people are unfit to be tried," said Alex Carlyle.

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Even Socks gets to party for Clinton

By DONNA ABU-NASH

WASHINGTON (AP) — The US capital is launching a weekend of glitzy celebrations of President Bill Clinton's second term that will bring together some of the United States' most glamorous and famous personalities.

The celebrations culminate tomorrow in a dizzying whirl of parties that will include 14 official balls and many unofficial ones, catering to all tastes: the snooty, the funky and the arty. Even Socks, the president's cat, has his own bash. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel has put on a week-long gala that began Monday to welcome him back.

With the Democrats' unofficial theme song, the Macarena, playing in the background, the Socks gala features life-size porcelain cats, a milk bar, a mice cake and mice martinis and a buffet featuring delicacies that would make any feline swoon: sushi and salmon.

One of the organizers, Sarah Parker, said the White House called to say they hoped Socks will drop by, but were not

sure he would because he was busy partying.

Elsewhere, preparations were under way for a bash by the Texas State Society.

Organizers of the "Black Tie and Boots Inaugural Ball" have ordered 450 kg of shrimp, 450 kg of beef brisket and scads of guacamole, beer and salsa.

Men in tuxedos are expected to stomp onto the dance floor in boots while women, dressed in sequined finery, will make an entrance in cowboy hats carefully perched over coiffed hair.

On Monday night, art lovers at the restaurant can have their pictures drawn with Clinton by political cartoonists or have their photographs taken with life-size cutouts of the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Elsewhere, women will be celebrating the importance of their vote in getting the president re-elected. The National Women's Political Caucus ball will feature women authors, entertainers, chefs and political leaders.

Perhaps the most star-studded soiree of all is Sunday's

inaugural gala, which will feature Mikhail Baryshnikov, Candice Bergen, Aretha Franklin, Whoopi Goldberg and Michael Douglas.

Producer Gary Smith said the show will reflect the theme of the gala, "An American Journey." That is why the show is a little bit younger than the 1993 one.

In the opening number, singer-actress Bernadette Peters will sing "These Are the Good Times" accompanied by 300 freshmen students wearing sweatshirts representing different US colleges.

Reinforcing the spirit of sharing, many entertainers will perform together for the first time ever. The pairings will include dancer Baryshnikov and saxophonist Kenny G and country singers Kenny Rogers and Trisha Yearwood, who will sing "Together As One."

If you think Republicans will stay at home and sulk while all this is going on, you are wrong. Republican activists will throw a lavish counter-inaugural party called "Mourning in America."

Vranitzky says it was time to quit

VIENNA — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky resigned yesterday after almost 11 years in power and said he would be succeeded by Finance Minister Viktor Klima.

Asked if he had submitted his resignation during a two-hour emergency meeting of senior members of his Social Democratic Party, Vranitzky said:

"Of course."

Speaking to a crowd of reporters later, Vranitzky, looking relaxed, said: "On my proposal Klima has been designated as federal chancellor."

Senior leaders of Vranitzky's Social Democrats had convened for an emergency session at 4 p.m. local amid growing signs Vranitzky would offer his resignation after 10 years in office.

Austrian media had reported yesterday that Klima was likely to be appointed as his successor.

A senior source inside his party earlier yesterday said the rumors sweeping around Vienna were "not far from the truth." (News agencies)

US Delta rocket explodes on takeoff

CAPE CANAVERAL (Reuters) — An unmanned Delta II rocket carrying a \$40 million US Air Force navigational satellite exploded on Friday about 10 seconds after blast off from Cape Canaveral Air Station.

In a statement, the public affairs office at the base said the explosion occurred about 10 seconds after the McDonnell Douglas Corp. rocket took off.

"The vehicle self-destructed," the statement said.

Eyewitnesses said the explosion was spectacular.

"I heard the main explosion and after that I heard three, four, more minor explosions and more smoke and more fireballs, and that's basically it," said Kurt Ronsvorn, a freelance photographer who was photographing the blastoff about three km from the launch pad.

Photographers and reporters about 1.5 km from the launch pad had to dive for cover when the blast occurred. They had been routinely advised beforehand that in the unlikely event of an explosion they might be at risk.

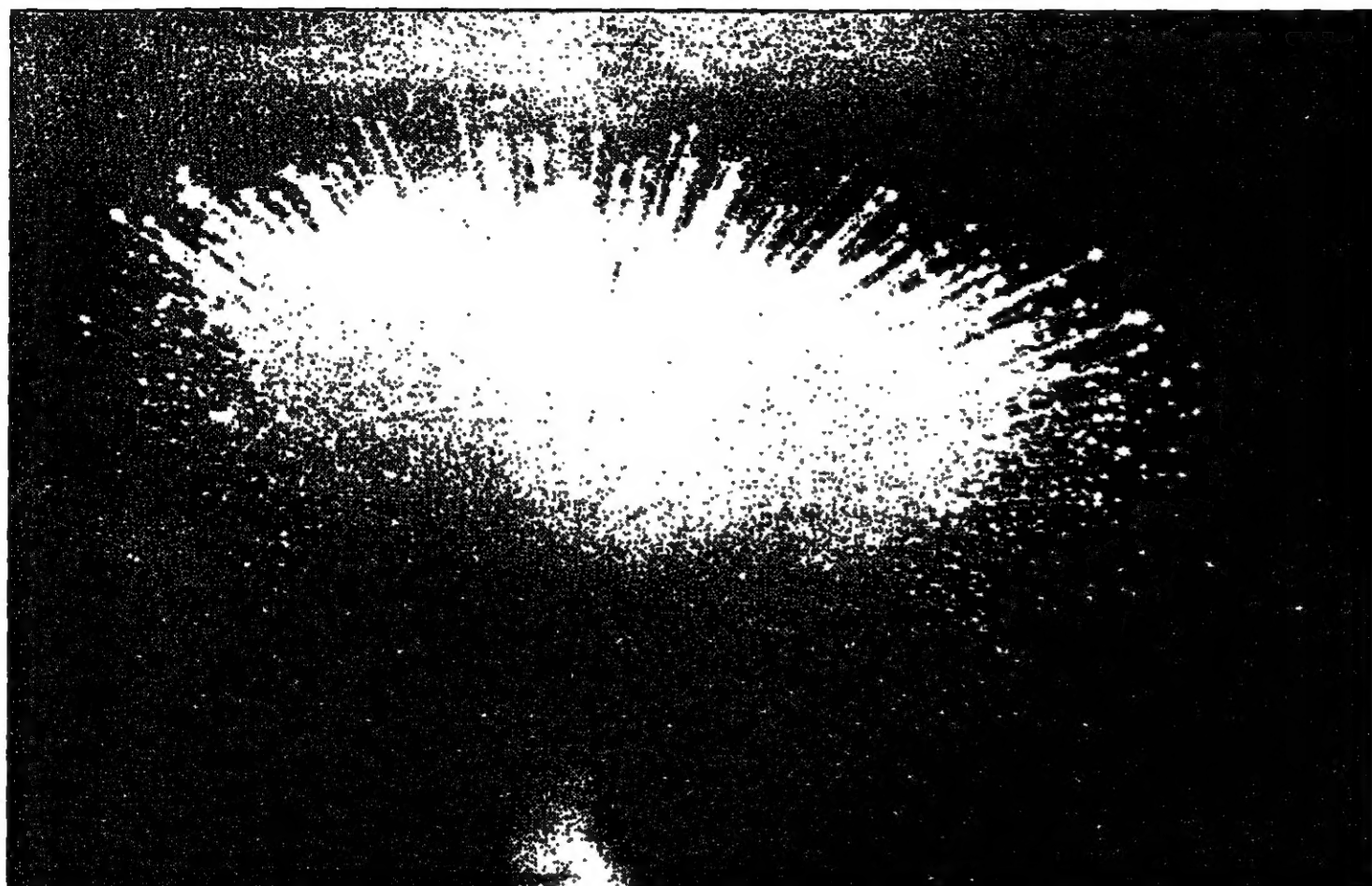
The rocket was carrying a NAVSTAR Block IIR satellite, a new generation of US Air Force Global Positioning System satellites.

The rocket was supposed to have launched at 11:28 a.m. and witnesses said the explosion occurred at about 11:32 p.m.

A spokesman at McDonnell Douglas confirmed that the explosion had occurred, but referred calls for further information to the US Air Force at Cape Canaveral.

The Air Force said parts of the rocket had fallen into a cleared safety area in the Atlantic Ocean and onto the Air Station. "There were no injured personnel," it said.

Television news footage showed sparks showering the launch pad seconds after takeoff.



A Delta II rocket carrying a global positioning satellite explodes after liftoff from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Friday, raining debris for miles. About 13 seconds after liftoff, a system designed to detect problems with the rocket triggered its destruction. (Reuters)

Peru terrorists ready to restart talks

From Post news agencies

LIMA — Peruvian Marxist terrorists holding 73 hostages in Lima said yesterday they were ready to start face-to-face talks with the government to reach a negotiated solution to the month-old crisis, local radio said.

But the terrorists added that talks would achieve nothing if the government persisted in ruling out their principal demand for the release of jailed comrades, according to a communiqué from the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) read to local Radio Programas del Peru via two-way radio.

The government already said it was ready to begin talks and will let commander Nestor Cerpa participate in mediation to end the month-long standoff.

The terrorists released their first hostage in 17 days Friday, an anti-terrorism police officer who the Red Cross said needed medical care.

It remains unclear when and if talks might begin, since government negotiator Domingo Palermio emphatically reiterated that Peru would not give in to the main rebel demand of freedom for the jailed comrades.

Members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement insist that freeing the prisoners must be on the table. President Alberto

Fujimori says the issue can be discussed, but Palermio said it won't go anywhere.

"Mothers, wives and children of our prisoners are also waiting for their freedom," read a banner the rebels hung early yesterday morning from the roof of the Japanese ambassador's residence.

Other messages, written on bed sheets, called against hunger suffered by many Peruvians and said the hostages were responsible for government policies.

Palermio also announced that Canada's ambassador to Peru, Anthony Vincent, will join the mediation panel. Vincent is a former hostage who was released early on and briefly served as a go-between for the government and the rebels.

Both sides have welcomed the inclusion of representatives from the Red Cross and Roman Catholic Church.

The Peruvian government on Thursday rejected a terrorist demand that Guatemala be included in the talks. Cerpa responded by announcing that talks were off until the government lifts a ban on visits to jailed rebels by family members and the Red Cross.

The terrorists now hold the 73 out of more than 500 seized Dec. 17 when they burst in on an elegant cocktail party at the ambassador's house.

Police widen search in Belgian child sex cases

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — Belgian police expect their widening search for child sex victims to yield up the remains soon of two children who disappeared in 1989

and 1994, a source close to the investigation said yesterday.

"We now think that we will find the bodies of Ken (Heyman) and Elisabeth Brichet there...possibly even today," the source said of the hunt in the city of Charleroi.

Heyman, 8, and his sister Kim, 11, disappeared from the Belgian port city of Antwerp in January, 1994. Kim's body was later found in the city. Brichet, 12, disappeared in December, 1989, from the town of Namur in southern Belgium.

Police have been searching at an abandoned mining complex in the Charleroi suburb of Jumet for the past four weeks.

Initially they were acting on information from the wife of convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux who led police last August to two sexually abused young girls who

were rescued alive, and then the bodies of four more children.

Eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo had been missing since June 1995. Dutroux said they starved to death early last year.

Their bodies were found next to that of a former Dutroux accomplice, Frenchman Bernard Weinstein, on a property belonging to Dutroux near Charleroi.

Dutroux, who was released on parole in 1992 after serving three years of a 13-year sentence for multiple child rape, has admitted murdering Weinstein.

The bodies of teenagers An Marchal and Eefje Lambrechts, missing for a year, were unearthed in early September at another property in Charleroi connected with Dutroux.

Belgian newspapers said that police searching the mine complex now were working on information they had collected about another pedophile who has been in jail since February.

Earlier this month, police, acting on information from France and Britain, raided more than 60 addresses in Belgium, arresting one man and seizing videotapes, CD-ROMs and cameras.

Belgium has claimed down on child pornography on the Internet and set up a special police unit to police it.

Last October more than 250,000 people marched through Brussels in a demonstration of support for victims of pedophilia and of public disgust at a legal and political system seen as deeply corrupt.

Cosby murder witness hides in fear

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — An attorney for the woman who witnessed the murder of Bill Cosby's son said yesterday she feared for her safety as reports surfaced she was on the scene and fled when Emnis

Cosby was accosted by the killer.

"She's very concerned for the tragedy that befell the Cosby family and she's very nervous and upset and concerned about her own safety and health," the

unidentified woman's attorney, Richard Debro, told Los Angeles TV station KNBC.

Emnis, the only son of entertainer Bill Cosby, was murdered early on Thursday.

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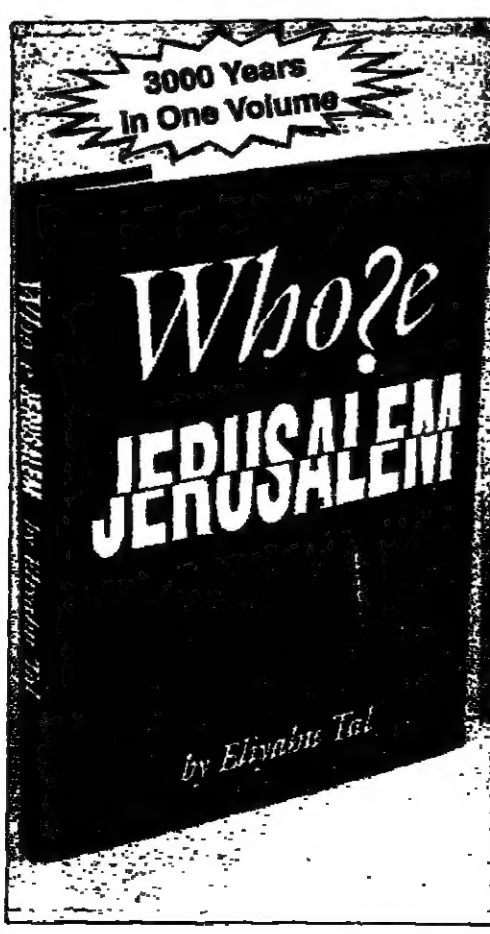
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Norwegian completes first Antarctica solo crossing

SYDNEY (AP) — For 64 days, Boerge Oustland saw little more than white. Endless fields of packed snow, occasionally broken up by peaks and canyons of icy white. Fiercely blowing flakes at times obscured the view of his white horizon. The 34-year-old Norwegian emerged on the Pacific edge of Antarctica yesterday to become the first person to cross the continent alone and unaided. Exhausted, and slightly frostbitten, Oustland beat three other adventurers who set out separately on November 15 to complete the 2,800-km journey.

"I am very, very tired, but incredibly happy," Oustland said by radio.



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Rx FOR READERS

What hides behind Assad's purple hand?

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

I saw a Reuters photo of Syrian President Hafez al-Assad: his face looked a normal color, but his right hand, which he had brought up to his ear, was a ghastly purple. What disease(s) could he have with such a symptom? R.V., Tel Aviv.

Prof. Tova Chajek, a senior internal medicine expert at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, comments:

Obviously, without examining a patient, it's impossible to give an accurate diagnosis. And it's possible that the reproduction of the photo was not lifelike. But there are numerous conditions that could be involved. There were press reports that he recently underwent a prostatectomy, and he is known to suffer from non-insulin-dependent diabetes. If he had an operation, an infection — complicated by the diabetes — could have resulted from an infusion. A hand could turn this color from a blockage in the vein leading to his hand, causing an inadequate amount of oxygen. He could have coronary insufficiency, with too little oxygen in his whole body; but this would affect both hands, and the legs even more than the hands.

My three-year-old son was diagnosed with dyspraxia, a neurological condition that causes him to be very clumsy. A doctor suggested giving him fish oil and said this could greatly improve his condition. Is there any scientific basis for this? S.B., Herzliya.

Dr. Raphael Weitz, a senior pediatric neurologist at the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva, replies:

Dyspraxia is a condition in which the child lacks the ability to make certain movements. This is due not to cerebral palsy or other disorders in which paralysis or muscle weakness are involved, but rather to problems of coordination.

The child may have trouble buttoning buttons, tying laces, or even speaking. The condition appears to some degree in about 10 percent of children, but because most cases are very mild, you wouldn't even notice them. Some types tend to run in families.

I know of no documented proof that any food supplement can help children with dyspraxia. However, occupational therapy

can be of much help, and three years of age is a good time to start. Dyspraxic children may need a neurological exam as well.

I am a man in my 40s. For years, I have had sinusitis infections, and in the last half-year, they've appeared very frequently. I'm reluctant to undergo surgery to remove the sinus polyps I have had since my 20s, as they have returned after three previous operations. This year, unlike those in the past, they have caused swelling in the gums. After conventional antibiotics did not help, the doctor prescribed Flagyl, saying the infection was probably due to anaerobic bacteria. Is it possible to perform a culture of the pus inside the nose or the gums to find out what kind of bacteria is causing it and what type of antibiotics will wipe out the infection? S.A., Jerusalem.

Dr. David Cohen, head of the ear-nose-and-throat department at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, answers:

If polyps are clogging up your sinuses, you will always suffer from infections. Taking antibiotics when you have an acute attack will not solve the problem, but only relieve the infection for a few weeks or so. You will have to consider another operation to remove the polyps; this can be done deeply to try to root as much as possible out, but many people with such conditions undergo such an operation from time to time. Complications are rare, involving about 1 percent of patients. No better solution is currently available.

A bacterial sample can be taken from pus in the nasal passages, but this may not be fully reliable. To get into the sinus, the procedure is half surgical. Since pus has reached your gums, a sample can be taken and cultured to find out the exact type of bacteria involved.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax to 02-5389527 or e-mail to rx@post.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

Laser treatment makes its mark

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

If Mikhail Gorbachev ever wished to get rid of his trademark — the large port-wine stain on his forehead — all he would have to do is come to Jerusalem and undergo a \$4,500 series of laser treatments.

Although the former Soviet president is unlikely to want to part with the red mark he was born with, many other people whose physical appearance is disfigured and self-esteem harmed by congenital or other defects would jump at the chance.

Until recently, the removal or blurring of warts, stretch marks, hemangiomas, café au lait marks, port-wine stains and surgical scars was nearly impossible, as plastic surgery and available lasers did not offer an aesthetic solution. But today, advanced lasers, which emit a single optimum wavelength of light, dramatically reduce the risk of scarring, and are safe enough to be used even on week-old babies.

Although such skin problems may have medical implications (they can grow elevated and thicker with age and bleed if rubbed), treating them has so far been regarded by Israel's health system as a purely cosmetic matter. Thus such treatments are not included in the basket of health services offered by the public health funds, and the public hospitals have not invested money and doctor training in this field.

It took a 37-year-old highly trained dermatologist on the faculty of Brown University Medical School in Rhode Island to come on aliya, invest a quarter of a million dollars in equipment, and open his own center in Jerusalem to make such laser treatment available here.

Dr. David Friedman, born in New York and a graduate of Yeshiva University's Einstein Medical School, came on aliya 18 months ago with his wife Ellen and five children. He has just opened the Institute for Dermatologic Laser Surgery and Hair Transplantation at the (private) Jerusalem Medical Center in the Wolfson Tower building overlooking the Knesset.

His array of laser machines, each suited for a different purpose, are not available in any of the capital's prestigious public hospitals or even in any private medical center, and he believes they are unique in the country. (One woman dermatologist is in the process of setting up her own dermatologic laser center in Tel Aviv.)

Professor Arich Ingber, chairman of the dermatology department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem, says Friedman is a very well-qualified dermatologist using lasers unavailable at Hadassah. In fact, he had wanted Friedman to work for him at Hadassah, but the young physician decided to open his own center. Ingber says he has plans to launch a similar dermatologic laser center at



Skin hemangiomas can grow to the size of a ping-pong ball, therefore, it's best to perform laser treatment early, according to Dr. David Friedman.

Hadassah, but still has no approval from hospital management or commitment for funding.

Skin hemangiomas are harmless tumors composed of a mass of blood vessels. One in 10 people are born with them (actually, they appear a week or two after birth) on their face, head or other parts of the body; in a majority of cases, they fade away (50% by age five, 70% by age seven, and 90% by age nine), but not always in an aesthetically

pleasing way. Some even grow to the size of a ping-pong ball. Thus, it's best, says Friedman, to perform laser treatment early.

Port-wine stains, like Gorbachev's, are dilated blood vessels that almost never go away. Occurring in three persons out of 1,000, they darken with age and can be very disfiguring, says Friedman. "I pity the child who goes through life with it on his face or arms or legs. It can harm self-esteem. Since they can look like black-and-blue marks, some parents are even stopped in the street, angrily confronted by strangers who ask if they abuse their children. Some people spend an hour each day putting on thick makeup to mask their facial defects."

Friedman's \$85,000 black lamp pulse-dye laser, which carries out selective photo-thermolysis, produces enough heat to remove the skin defect without causing scar-

ring. The old-fashioned argon or carbon-dioxide lasers that were used for years for dermatologic defects (and still exist in local hospitals) often cause scarring by destroying too much tissue. Friedman's laser emits light in 415-micrometer bursts at the dermatologist aims it at one spot after another. It is also effective for treating rosacea (permanent red noses or cheeks due to enlarged blood vessels in the skin), spider angiomas on the face (commonly found in young girls), warts, raised surgical scars, psoriasis, leg veins, and stretch marks (especially effective if they are recent) appearing during pregnancy.

Friedman says he's very satisfied with the results on patients with psoriasis (chronic itchy, reddish patches on the skin); they disappear for several years after two or three laser treatments.

Friedman notes that laser treatment of these skin defects feels like a series of rubber-band flicks on the skin. Most patients don't need an anesthetic, except for children, who require a local or general anesthetic, depending on their age and condition.

Friedman's second device is a CO2 Silk Touch Laser, manufactured by Israel's Laser Industries. This is designed for reducing facial wrinkles and treating scars from acne and other problems. The third is a Q-Switch Ruby for café au lait stains, sun spots, and tattoos. "It's also good for permanent hair removal and much quicker than electrolysis."

Although there is currently a tattooing fad (especially among young Tel Avivians), studies show that most people with tattoos eventually want to get rid of them. "I have seen penitent Jews who regret their tattoos [which are barred by Halacha], and many secular Jews who have outgrown them. In the US, there are former gang members who are refused employment until they get rid of their tattoos," said Friedman.

But, as the cost of purchasing the laser equipment and replacing them with more advanced models, as well as regular maintenance, are sky high, Friedman's prices are not bargain basement. A tattoo produced by an amateur requires three to six treatments and by a professional five to nine, each of them costing around NIS 650. Removing café au lait marks costs NIS 800 per treatment, and one would need two to four of them. Wrinkle removal costs nearly NIS 4,000 for a part of the face and NIS 10,000 for the whole face. Hemangioma removal costs NIS 1,200 to NIS 1,500 per treatment, and one needs two or three.

Yet there may be good news. Friedman is currently negotiating with one health insurer to provide laser treatments for warts, hemangiomas, and other skin problems; despite the "cosmetic" reputation of such treatments, the insurer would like to offer it free to its members.

Kudo and caveats to health system — expert

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

There isn't an exact Hebrew term for the word "accountability," and this is no coincidence, says Professor Richard Saltman, an expert in health policy and management in the US and a frequent visitor to Israel. "The lack of a Hebrew word for this concept — which means you have someone you must report to — says something about the society."

But Saltman, who grew up in Boston and since 1991 has been at the Emory University School of Public Health in Atlanta, has very warm words for Israel — especially the fact that its health system reflects the society's solidarity with and caring for the unfortunate, something he says can no longer be said for the US.

He is familiar with the gamut of health systems; as co-leader of a study by the World Health Organization's European regional office (with which Israel is affiliated despite its geographical location), he has recently conducted extensive research on European medical-care reforms. He has also been a consultant on health systems' reform projects for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank, and has written a number of books on the subject.

Familiar with Israel's national health insurance system as well, he was recently invited by the Israel Medical Association to lecture at a day-long Tel Aviv seminar on "Accountability in the Health System," during which he found time for an interview.

"There are many different types and mixes of accountability in a health system: ethical, legal, professional, financial and political," explains Saltman. "The Swedish system, for example, is tax funded, and administered by nearly two dozen separate regional elected bodies (county councils), and the accountability is professional and political."

Denmark, with five million residents, has 14 elected bodies that run

the health system, and these have the power to tax. This system, he says, is politically controlled and run by politicians who manipulate it for short-term benefits and to satisfy the electoral system.

The US, with its "hard-hearted" health system, is a very different mix. "It has essentially no political accountability. The First Lady, Hillary Clinton, had intended to turn most of the responsibility over to health maintenance organizations (HMOs), and that would essentially be giving away political accountability. Nothing came of it."

"In the US, regulatory organizations nip at the heels of the HMOs, so that abuse of the system does not become outrageous; doctors' organizations are very powerful, and there is always the fear of lawsuits. In America, financial accountability is the most powerful. Almost everything is run with an eye to profit and loss. The ideals of mission and social good have all but disappeared from the US health system."

Saltman cites the example of New York City, which at the beginning of this century had an extensive public hospital system that saved the lives and health of new immigrants and the native poor as well as the better off. But, this system is now rapidly being dismantled. "Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is in the process of selling three of the remaining 11 public hospitals to private corporations. This is the last bastion of public-run medical institutions in the US, and they are, unfortunately, associated with low-quality care for the indigent poor."

As the American government abandons its public health institutions, "the US will become an increasingly maverick society. People increasingly look at others' misfortunes and say 'I pay for myself. Your problem is not my problem.' That trend is apparently what is wanted by the majority of the US population. A European friend of mine, who is a health economist, says the US health system won't change its orientation until a war is fought on US territory, which would make the society feel vulnerable and be forced to feel responsibility for all members."



Prof. Richard Saltman (N. Shani) System needs accountability

As an observer of levels of health care in Eastern Europe through his WHO work, Saltman bemoans what has happened in the former Communist countries, especially Russia, Latvia and Georgia. "There has been a dramatic drop of life expectancy in the last three years — from 63 to 57 for men. This is an unprecedented change for the worse, and it's not due just to alcohol abuse by people who want to drown their pain. It's an expression of violence, accidents, and of a whole generation of people in their 50s and 60s who are giving up on life. The massive inflation of the ruble during these years wiped out life savings. Older people see their old world crumbling. And it would be extremely dangerous and immoral for the US to dance on the grave of Communism, as the human loss due to transitions in the former USSR is enormous."

As for Israel's current health system, as laid out in the National Health Insurance Law that went into effect in January 1995, Saltman says it is unusual in that the amount of health services available to the entire citizenry has expanded rather than declined. "Except for Germany's new sickness fund, which involves

long-term care for the elderly, Israel's is the only major system to increase coverage rather than decrease it. With the aging of the population, growing demand for better care, and the increased costs of medical technology and drugs, the rest of the world is just trying to conserve what they have."

Most medical advances cost more rather than less, says Saltman. "One of the few I can think of that doesn't is laparoscopy — keyhole surgery — which reduces the number of hospitalization days and medical complications of conventional surgery, in most cases."

As government budgets come under increasing pressure, long-term aspects of medical care inevitably suffer. There is less money for disease prevention, rehabilitation of patients, and capital expenditure for the construction of new facilities. "You won't see the harmful effects of these cuts immediately; it takes years to note these influences."

Israel, he maintains, has a health-care system in transition. "It is going from a process of nation building — in which immigrants are brought in, the government holds firm control of medical care, and accepts considerable donations from foreign donors — to a fully developed and mature Western European-style system. It is one in which many people are well-off enough to afford private services. Israeli Arabs' access to health services has been improved, and the separation of Kupat Holim Clalit from the Histadrut, thus eliminating politicization of the health fund, is all for the good."

But after two years of granting the automatic right of health-fund membership to all residents, providing services to hundreds of thousands of people who were previously excluded from ongoing treatment, Israel is finding that the system is too expensive. The deficits are accumulating, and there is pressure to make cuts. This endangers the society's feeling of solidarity. Saltman's considered opinion is rather than privatizing the health system, Israel must find a way to use competition in carefully controlled doses to promote social good.

HEALTH SCAN

Parliament's pain in the back

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

The Knesset is a pain in the back. At least that's the conclusion of Kupat Holim Clalit personnel, who recently examined the chairs in the plenum and the backs of 260 MKs and Knesset staffers during a special "back health day" organized by Knesset physician Dr. Yitzhak Lifschitz.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, who took off his shoes like everybody else to step up onto a special device for testing posture, said he intends to open an improved gym in the Knesset in the near future. Many MKs are interested in sports, and they have asked for new equipment, Tichon said. "In the past, such efforts were not successful, but the greater awareness of MKs of back and other health

problems now encourages me to upgrade the Knesset gym."

Labor Party chairman MK Shimon Peres, one of those examined, said he wasn't one of the 80% of the population who suffer from a back-pain attack at least once in their lives. He has never had back pain, and credited it to the fact that he does physiotherapy exercises regularly.

Exercise machines were temporarily brought into the Knesset for the "day," and MKs Rafi Elial and Meir Sheerit were especially enthusiastic about trying them out. The timing was good, since the event occurred during marathon discussions of the state budget, which required non-stop sitting.

CLALIT STILL SPRINKLING Kupat Holim Clalit's share of health taxes has declined and the

other three health funds' shares have increased, according to the National Insurance Institute, which allocates this money on a per-capita basis, modified by the age of members. Clalit will this month receive 65.5% of health taxes (compared to 66.02% six months ago). Maccabi will get 17.6% (up from 17.48%); Leumi 8.86% (up from 8.68%); and Meuhedet 8.04% (up from 7.82%).

Since the NII allocates a significantly larger amount of money for elderly members, Clalit's actual share of health fund members is less than 65.5%. From June through November 1996, 122,000 adults and children switched health funds.

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Yeltsin's time has passed

THERE probably is no good time for the leader of Russia to be less than fully fit, but this is not an easy time for Boris Yeltsin. The rivals calling for him to quit last week have backed off for the moment but, although their motives were less than altruistic, they undoubtedly had a point.

The Russian people may muddle on along with their feeble leader as he unconsciously tries to persuade them that he is still the old energetic, hard-working, hard-playing man of five years ago. But the signs of his feebleness are already seen on Russian foreign policy and most Western leaders are resigned to the wallowing as long as Yeltsin remains figuratively at the helm. The truth is Yeltsin is tired, his country is tired, and its foreign policy is tired. This matters, because the danger is strong that Russia's relations with the outside world are getting worse rather than better. Nor will they improve as long as Yeltsin is sick or absent or both, leaving future rivals for his job making their pitch as stronger or more nationalist than the other contenders.

The last thing the world needs is a new souring of relations between Russia and the West. The Cold War may be dead but there is no guarantee it could not be resurrected. All the old behavior patterns on both sides are still there under the surface. The most crucial current issue between the two sides is the proposed expansion of NATO into countries of the former Soviet bloc — a plan highly unpopular in Russia and one that raises deep suspicions of Western intentions.

This is just the type of issue that needs a strong Russian leader with all his wits and authority about him. Moscow has a strong case over the NATO issue and it needs to be expressed strongly to Western leaders. Not everyone in the West is convinced that there is any real need for NATO to continue adopting its current bulldog approach. It is not unreasonable for an average Russian to perceive a certain "we won't" gloating attitude in the alliance's refusal to adopt a humbler attitude in the post Cold War world.

Yeltsin has made foreign policy very much his own and has always made it clear to his ministers that the policies and the decisions are his. The NATO issue is just the most pressing of many issues that need a firm hand from Moscow. Such matters must be negotiated now, or Russia may not get the best deals it can. In the long run, this will be to no one's advantage if a subsequent Russian leader — the tough Alexander Lebed for example — feels that his

country's national pride has been hurt or its interests damaged.

Of course such an eventuality would also be bad for Yeltsin, and his reputation in history, if he is judged to have failed in negotiating the best possible foreign positions for Russia. Just for self-interest alone, Yeltsin should quit now before he is remembered, like Brezhnev, only for his stubborn refusal to admit he had become unfit to rule.

Yeltsin had talks with Germany's Helmut Kohl last week and in the next few weeks he has a schedule that would be quite enough for any person who has not had a bypass operation and pneumonia. How he is supposed to cope with all these arduous negotiations is anybody's guess — with Kohl he looked seriously ill and incapable as the German leader offered his arm to help him take a few steps for the cameras. He is due to meet French President Jacques Chirac in Moscow in the first week of February and, the same week, he is to visit The Hague to meet the European Union president, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok. He is also due to meet British Prime Minister John Major soon, as well as attend a summit with President Bill Clinton in March.

The Russian government, moreover, has been disintegrating around Yeltsin for some time as his health declined after last year's robust electioneering that, with hindsight, looks more and more like a last fling. Yeltsin's convincing win was all to his credit, but that credit is rapidly being squandered by his inability to do anything with the victory. He is a lame-duck president who is also becoming a sitting duck. The cant of the former Soviets and ultra-nationalists who accused him of "selling out" to the West may have fallen silent for the moment, but any perceived humiliation of Russia by foreign powers because of the leader's weakness is likely to bring it back at full volume.

Yeltsin is that same man who gained his place in history by facing down a communist coup in 1991, becoming a national and international hero. Now he has become bad news for Russia and for its new foreign friends who could so easily be demonized again as enemies. Yeltsin, the former leader of public opinion, is tired, bumbling, the butt of Brezhnev-like jokes, worn down by ill-health and excessive drinking.

It is time for him to call it a day while he still has enough judgment left to know it is the right thing to do. He should be grateful that fate placed him in the right place at the right time. But that time has passed, the place now is different.



A sacred mission

STEWART WEISS

I picture an old and broken man, forgotten by the world, sitting alone in some bleak and barren Russian wilderness. Swallowed up long ago in the black hole of history, this man happens to be one of the greatest heroes of our time; he saved more Jews than any other single individual in this century.

Is Raoul Wallenberg still alive? Some believe he is.

Wallenberg confronted the Nazi destruction machine during the closing years of World War II in an attempt to save what was left of Hungarian Jewry. In a dark world where Jewish blood ran cheap, his heroism shone out like a beacon.

Yet, though some still cling to the belief that Wallenberg is not dead, few — including Jews who decry the world's inaction in the Holocaust and Jews who owe Wallenberg their lives — can be heard clamoring for his rescue.

When Wallenberg arrived in Hungary in July 1944 as First Secretary of the Swedish Diplomatic Mission in Budapest, time was already running out for the Jews there. The Germans had already sent 400,000 men, women and children to their deaths; only 200,000 remained. Adolf Eichmann was preparing a plan to wipe them out within a 24-hour period.

Only a last-second appeal by King Gustav V of Sweden halted the march of death, and trains carrying Jews to the death camps were stopped at the border and sent back to Budapest. Sensing the opportunity to save a Jewish community, the Swedish Legation sent Wallenberg into the breach.

Scion of a wealthy Swedish banking family, Wallenberg was charged by the War Relations Board and the World Jewish Congress with the task of rescuing the Jews of Hungary. Given wide-ranging powers by the Swedish Mission he used every type of device — diplomatic and other — to save Jews.

For example, he set up safe houses flying the Swedish flag, proclaiming them "mission houses," and crumpling them with desperate Jews. He designed special Schutz-Paasche ("Wallenberg passports") — colorful, official-looking documents that meant freedom for more than 13,000 people. He hired hundreds of Jews for his staff, giving them the diplomatic immunity that would put them out of the reach of Nazi "selections."

In October 1944, when newly-appointed Hungarian head of State Ferenc Szalasi gave Eichmann free reign to accelerate

the "Final Solution," Wallenberg increased his efforts to rescue Jews.

Working around the clock, his staff mimeographed diplomatic "passes," each signed by Wallenberg. Huge bribes went to local officials to allow the safe houses to remain open. Time was short.

A month later, Eichmann began his brutal death marches, forcing thousands of Jews to march 200

kilometers between Budapest and the Hungarian border. As people dropped like flies along the road, Wallenberg and his staff stayed with the marchers, dispensing food and medicine, pulling the weaker ones out of line, stuffing protective passports into their hands.

When Eichmann again began shipping Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz by the trainload, Wallenberg would climb into the boxcars and throw bundles of protective papers to the passengers. He would then jump down and demand that those with Swedish "protection" be allowed off the trains, to return to the city with him.

On one occasion German soldiers were ordered to shoot Wallenberg. But, impressed by his courage, they deliberately aimed too high, and missed.

AS THE Russians closed in on Budapest, in January 1945, Wallenberg learned that Eichmann was about to massacre all the Jews still left in the city's ghetto. The only one who could prevent this was General August Schmidhuber, commander of German troops in Hungary.

Wallenberg sent Schmidhuber a diplomatic note promising — in rather undiplomatic language — that if the Jews were liquidated, he would see the general hanged as a war criminal. Realizing the Nazi cause was lost, Schmidhuber called off the massacre.

The writer, a director of Jewish educational programs in Jerusalem and Ra'anana, is a member of the Raoul Wallenberg Honorary Citizen Committee.

Waste not

HELEN MOTRO

I remember when Israel considered itself a poor country — in water.

From an early propaganda newswire I saw in the '50s stands out the image of a mother in a bare development town soaping her baby in a tin tub. When she was done with the baby, she used the same water to wash her kitchen floor.

That was the Israel I was led to expect.

I am reminded of that film when I open my mailbox to find yet another prospectus offering to build a private swimming pool in my back yard.

I have been told that Israel, where no rain falls for six months a year, is classified by the US Department of Agriculture as a semi-arid country. Yet in its lush suburbs turquoise pools are cropping up like mushrooms after rain.

Only there is no rain. An average pool for use in a private garden holds 150 cubic meters of water, enough to irrigate a dunam of avocados or oranges for three months.

The water in Eilat was once a slightly medicinal commodity with a salty taste and white chalky pieces you watched sinking unappealingly to the bottom of your glass. Today, Eilat's hotels boast baroque man-made waterfalls rivaling the height of Las Vegas kitch.

Public roadsides blaze with blooms which, if their irrigation drips were turned off, would shrivel and die within a week. The country is inundated with jacuzzis, water parks, automatic car washes.

In geological time we have hardly blinked an eye; surely we have not undergone major climatic upheavals. So why this sudden affluence? From whence this hydraulic excess?

Logical possibilities come to mind: better technology to filter water, improved transportation

Israelis are weird when it comes to water

know-how, progress in desalination and recycling.

But actually it is the Israeli mentality, not the climate, that has undergone a sea change — toward water as well as everything else.

Israelis of a certain generation were educated to turn off the water in the middle of their showers, turning it on again to rinse off.

I, coming from a land of gray skies and rainy weekends, was awed at this stoicism. But I bet that the sabra children of these parents wouldn't dream for a moment of following their civic example and shivering in the shower.

Israelis as a whole may not have been as extreme in their frugality as that mother reusing her baby's bathwater, but to a new-cower, the general consciousness to conserve was remarkable.

If Israelis were ever romantic about anything, it's water. Take a Jerusalemite to the 15,000 large lakes of Minnesota, and his eyes will mist over with longing.

"If only we could have just one like this," he will say with a sigh, "in addition to our Kinneret."

Israelis are never disappointed to encounter rain abroad; no rain insurance for their vacations. On the contrary: an overcast sky elevates their mood. "Raining again?" they will marvel, smiling.

Israelis are in love with umbrellas. The first rain of the season is so magical that it boasts its own special name.

Indeed, one sure mark that an immigrant has integrated is when he closes the blinds to keep out the sun and begins to pine for a rainy day.

The reverence for water is directly proportionate to the current outrageous flouting of its use.

And perhaps here lies the answer to a seeming paradox. The Israelis who lived through the austerity period will never shake off the mentality to save and scrimp. But the children and grandchildren of these modest folk have gone to the other extreme.

Ability to waste is a sign of success. You've really made it when you don't care how much gas you use, when you leave your air-conditioner running in an empty office, when you water your garden until it mimics a tropical rain forest.

If you can squander precious water, you must really be rich. "Save every drop!" used to be the motto in Israel. Now Israelis echo the Sun King and exclaim: "After us, the flood..."

The writer, an attorney, lives in Kfar Shmaryahu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir, — Rabbi M.M. Cohen, president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, reiterates (Letters, January 3) his contention that there was no *mehitza* at the Wall in pre-State days.

In my letter of December 17, I referred to the report of the commission, appointed in 1930 by the British government, with the approval of the League of Nations, to determine the rights and claims by Jews and Moslems in connection with the Wall. May I now quote from the Memorandum on the Western Wall, prepared by Cyrus Adler and submitted to the commission on behalf of the Jewish Agency.

The memorandum states (p. 76): "As among all Orthodox Jews, there is a separation of men and women at religious services; the women used to stand huddled in one corner of the alleyway and the men distributed

THE MEHITZA AT THE WALL

themselves along the rest. When these services became long, a small screen or flat form of separation was set up to satisfy requirements. Testimony is given from various authoritative sources for this practice, and in addition illustrations from Palestine itself."

On page 62, the memorandum states: "We direct particular attention to an account given by Mr. Herbert Rix, published in 1907, in which he expressly states that there was a canvas screen separating the men from the women. The illustration mentioned in the text is included in the memorandum."

The memorandum goes on to quote from Rix's *Tent and Testament* (London, 1907). I reproduce only a few sentences: "It was about half-past three, too early for the Friday liturgy, which is not read until four, but a number of Jews,

young men and white-headed fathers, were already gathered together and were praying or reading their psalters or kissing the great stones of the Temple wall... On the other side of a canvas screen, which divided the little courtyard into two, were the women, standing against the sunlit wall of the Temple, or sitting in the shade with their books..."

At the hearings held by the commission a Jew testified that in the beginning of this century, he ordered, upon request by rabbinical authorities, a *mehitza* from a carpenter. The *mehitza* was used for many years every Shabbat evening, on Sabbaths and festivals and on other occasions when large numbers of worshippers assembled at the Wall (*Mishpat Hakotel* p. 89).

TOVIA PRESCHTEL

Jerusalem.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Sir, — On behalf of the Open University of Israel, I would like to respond to the article by Penny Starr entitled "Hitler's War on Channel 8" (January 6). The Open University of Israel has been incorporating films and other media materials in its teaching programs since its inception, most recently on Cable TV Channel 8. Its teaching methods also incorporate interactive broadcasts via satellite, communications via computer, multimedia and telecourses. For the purposes of its TV broadcasts, university staff members review about 2,000 films a year, of which only 500 are chosen for screening based

on academic and didactic criteria. It is legitimate to use films for teaching purposes conveying the perspectives of dictators, terrorists and Nazis in the framework of such courses as antisemitism, the Holocaust, democracies and dictatorships, Middle East history and mass media. However, they are more judiciously screened in closed tutorial sessions which are supplemented with the relevant explanation and preparation and not for open screening. We have renewed the guidelines to that effect to our academic TV previewers, so that we can continue to maintain the high standards that

our TV viewing public has come to expect.

When the matter was brought to the attention of the Open University, it was decided not to screen the second film and this decision was brought to the knowledge of the reporter several days before the article was published.

We apologize to any viewers who may have been offended by the film and thank them for bringing the matter to our attention.

PROF. RUTH BEYTH-MAROM,
Vice President, The Open University

Tel Aviv.

PROGRESSIVE CAUSES

Sir, — One can sympathize with David Forman's lament (December 24) about the relative paucity of support by liberal American Jews for progressive causes in Israel as compared with American Orthodox support for their Israeli counterparts, but there are very significant exceptions to this pattern.

A major source of such "liberal" support is the New Israel Fund, based in Washington and Jerusalem, which provides grants and capacity-building assistance to a broad range of Israeli organizations — nearly 200 of

them — working to promote religious pluralism and tolerance, defend civil and human rights, promote Jewish-Arab equality and coexistence, advance the status of women and bridge social and economic gaps. As Rabbi Forman surely knows, these groups include Rabbis for Human Rights, of which he is the founder.

In the face of growing efforts by religious extremists in Israel to delegitimize all forms of Jewish observance but their own, the New Israel Fund has taken a leadership role in Match Hofesh, the Coalition for

Judaism Without Coercion, which is spearheading a broad effort to protect Jewish pluralism and resist attempts at religious coercion. Through a parallel effort in North America, NIF is seeking to mobilize support, both financial and moral, for non-Orthodox institutions in Israel, and to move American Jews to speak out in defense of religious freedom there.

NORMAN S. ROSENBERG,
Executive Director,
New Israel Fund

Washington, D.C.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Try to imagine a million free-wheeling Israelis operating a demon like this. The car, equipped with four oval-shaped wheels, can be driven in any direction irrespective of which way it is facing. The design won first prize at a Mitsubishi ideas contest in Kawasaki, Japan.

(Reuter)

السلامة العامة

ON CAMERA

The mesmerizing effect of pattern

By DAVID BRAUNER

Have you ever found yourself staring at a photograph, perhaps at an exhibition, and wondering why? Pattern may be the answer. Any repetition of line, color or shape forms a pattern. Natural and man-made patterns are all around us. One of the strongest compositional elements in any photograph is pattern. Photographers are drawn to what we call "visual rhythms." The choices a photographer makes in framing a picture often isolate patterns most of us may miss or take for granted.

From the very earliest stages, even without the use of the camera, the pioneers recognized how photography accentuated mesmerizing repetitive qualities in nature. William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-77), credited with the invention of the negative, contacted printed parsley florets to produce a highly intricate silhouette. In the 1920s one of photography's foremost technical perfectionists, Edward Weston (1886-1958), photographed an image he called *Shell*. The textured lines, curves, shadows and highlights swirl around, mirroring, intersecting and radiating pattern, so that the shell takes on a curious animation.

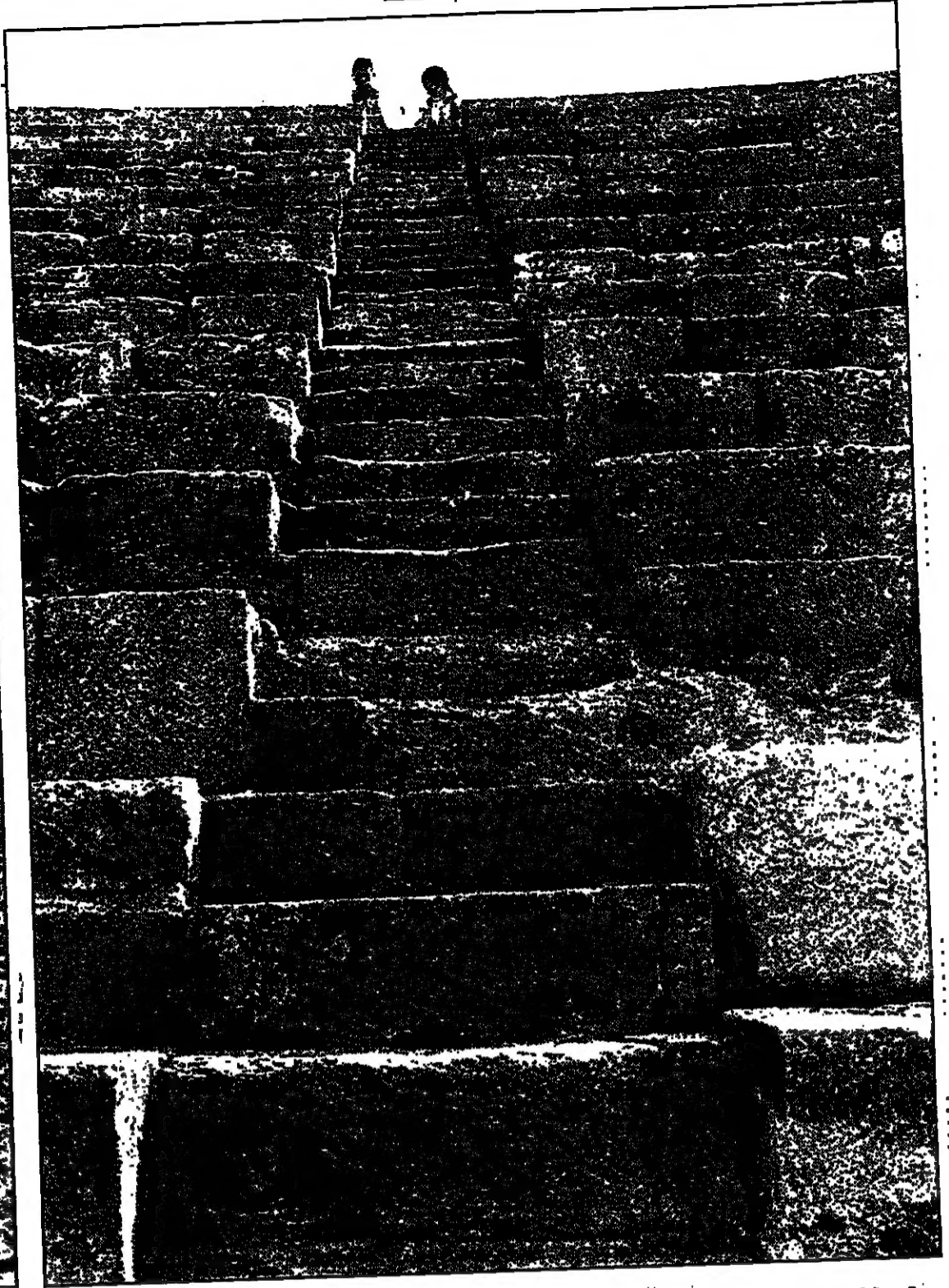
When I recently visited the home of veteran Israeli photographer Werner Braum, he pointed out a curious image on the wall taken by his wife, Anat Rotem. The blow-up began life as a photograph of a cross-country ski race. The throngs of skiers looking like black dots formed a flowing, open "S" shape coming down the white slope. But, in a bit of darkroom wizardry, Braum enhanced the pattern of the composition by turning the negative around so that the "S" became a graceful "X." In the middle, where the two lines intersected, was the densest, blackest part.

In my own photography I am always on the lookout for interesting patterns. The herringbone design of a boardwalk in New York, waves on the water from swans swimming on a quiet stream in Holland, crisscrossing tank tracks in the Negev desert, or cows lined up for milking in a kibbutz dairy are but a few of the patterns that make their way into my pictures. Light and shadow are primary elements of pattern. The long shadows of late afternoon can be particularly attractive. Look for the shadows created by fences and stairs outdoors.

Architecture is a great source of pattern. And these days, with the increased use of glass and



The "visual rhythm" of pattern: Arched stairways photographed through an arch; note the complementing curved back of the person on the stairs; Emphasizing the converging lines of the aisle of an ancient Roman amphitheater: the two figures at the top add a touch of spice to the composition.



(David Brauner)

other reflective materials, the photographer only has to open his/her eyes to the opportunities presented by the parallel and intersecting lines, planes, and textures of modern construction. Similarly, archeological ruins can be an interesting challenge to "pattern-driven" photography. On a recent visit to an ancient Roman amphitheater, I got down

on my knees in order to emphasize the converging lines of the aisle through foreshortening. Landscape in the shape of plowed fields, undulating roads and tree-lined paths has much to offer in terms of natural patterns. Harbors and marinas are another great source of repetitive elements in the shapes of the yachts, the masts and the rig-

ging thrusting up into the sky, or ragged holes in the old rusty bucket abandoned on a jetty. It is often the case that one does not see all of the pattern elements when actually taking the shot. In a photograph through an arch of arched stairways in a Jerusalem courtyard, I only noticed the complementary curve of the Hassid's back after

I printed the picture. Also, it is important to include, if possible, variations or disruptions in the design, so that the composition does not become monotonous. Often it is quite possible to combine different repeating elements in one image, for example, horizontal rows of incandescent waves intersected by a long, black pier

out to sea. The use of patterns as a secondary or subsidiary element in a composition requires a quick eye or careful planning. Either way the photographer must be careful not to allow the background pattern to confuse or overwhelm the main subject. Even in home snap photography it is worthwhile experiment-

ing with pattern. For instance, the next time you take a picture of the family group, try arranging the individuals in the shape of triangle or a diamond, rather than usual rows. Work with relative heights to achieve an ascending or descending line across the frame. Pattern can add to every picture, not only the ones you start at on gallery walls.

Afghan Taleban issues guidelines for Ramadan fast

The purist Islamic Taleban issued guidelines last week for Afghans during Ramadan, the lunar month of fasting for Moslems, confining most women to their homes and banning public eating and entertainment. During this period, Moslems are not allowed to eat, drink or smoke in daylight hours.

The guidelines were prepared by the department for promoting good and suppressing vice. It has produced a seven-point document for the guidance of their fellow Afghans, according to Mullah Enayatullah Baligh, the department's deputy head.

"All hotels and eating places in

Kabul and throughout, Afghanistan should be closed during the day for the month of Ramadan," said the document. "Our esteemed sisters are asked not to venture out of their houses without a legal excuse. In case they have to leave their houses they should be veiled from the head to below the ankle," the document continued.

Baligh explained that there were a number of legal reasons for which a woman could leave the house. "They can leave their houses to buy food, or visit patients in the hospital, or go to a funeral for example, but they should not just wander around in the markets and parks."

"If a man sees a woman during Ramadan, he will be provoked," said Baligh as an explanation of the restrictions on women.

Musical entertainment or parties in hotels or private houses is also forbidden during Ramadan, the document said. Baligh explained that the aim of the clause was to encourage people to go to the mosque at night for "Taraveh," the Ramadan prayers, and the study of the Koran, which also takes place at night during Ramadan.

"All countrymen should attend the recitation of the Holy Koran and Taraveh prayers..." the guidelines said.

Baligh said that the 9 p.m. curfew the Taleban imposed on Kabul when they took the city in late September last year would be relaxed to allow people to go to the mosque.

"The curfew is not strictly enforced now: it is only there to curtail cases of robbery and looting, but there will be full freedom until 10:30 or 11 o'clock to allow people to go to Taraveh."

Baligh stressed the Taleban would not be conducting house-to-house searches to ensure people attended the mosque, and that the sick and those with other valid reasons would be excused.

"These are only guidelines. We won't

be forcing people out of their houses and into the mosque," he said.

The guidelines also urged those who have enough food to help their more needy neighbors.

It is a tradition, particularly during Ramadan, for the rich to help the poor, but it is one that gains particular poignancy in Afghanistan. After 17 years of war, many people are unable to afford sufficient food.

The International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that 57 percent of the population of Afghanistan are malnourished. The United Nations World Food Program estimates that half of Kabul's population receive food aid of

some sort.

"Foreigners, travelers, and the sick [all groups who are exempted from fasting during Ramadan] cannot eat or drink in front of those who are keeping the fast," say the guidelines.

"It would be rude for you to eat in front of someone who is keeping the fast," Baligh told a non-Moslem Reuters correspondent.

"You can eat and smoke in your room, but if you do it in public, we will arrest you," he said. And the guidelines concluded: "Those who break the fast, or do not keep it at all will be punished according to Shariat [Islamic law]."

(Reuters)

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Hunting cats, and their hunted

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

One reader wrote: "My cat catches a lot of mice in the garden but never eats them. She just brings them to me. Why does she hunt them if she doesn't want to eat them?"

Another reader says that her cat never invades the house and asks mice to come in. She just sits outside, feed the cat less so it will be hungry. And lastly, a reader wants to know if cats that are good mouse hunters can catch good mouse hunters can catch mice. He also wants to know if cats can be of use in catching snakes.

All of these questions relate to the hunting instinct in cats and, surprisingly, hunger has very little to do with whether a cat is or is not an efficient hunter.

Many healthy and very well-fed cats hunt assiduously while some cats, even in a semi-starved condition, fail to hunt at all. First of all it seems to be an established fact that the drive to hunt is a definite genetic factor, and although the exact gene has not yet been isolated, there is mounting evidence that it is a dominant gene that appears in a great majority of

felines. Of course if it is lacking in wild felines they would have no hope of survival and therefore there is no question of this condition being passed on. Therefore all wild felines possess it.

In addition to this inherited characteristic, there is also the effect of the environment, and a cat that is a good hunter not only gives her kittens the gene or genes for a hunting instinct but teaches them the tricks of the trade. I once had a calico female that used to bring her mice home and every evening there was a "mouse ulpan" in my study as the mother instructed her kittens.

The reason for the lack of this drive to hunt in some cats is not certain but it appears far more often in urban cats than in cats from more rural areas. Some who have studied the subject suggest that several decades of spreading poison for mice in cities where hunting cats catch the poisoned mice and are themselves killed by eating them has acted as a selection against feline hunters, leaving alive only the ones that do not hunt. This is, however, unproven.

As for catching rats, some cats can indeed hold their own even against large and rather vicious

rats but in most cases cats do not even try to catch adult rats. But this does not mean they have no value as rat controllers. Every rat starts its life as a young, small and inexperienced creature and these juvenile rats are easy prey for a hunting cat. Young rats are also not nearly as quick or as wary as mice.

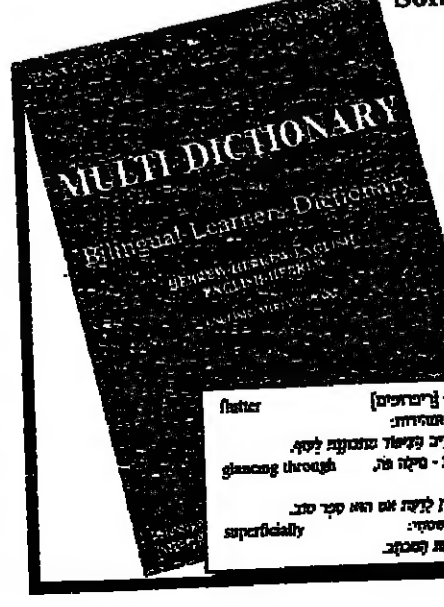
Some cats do hunt snakes but this is not too common and most of those I have observed were Siamese, a breed with a very strongly expressed hunting drive. But the value of cats in controlling snakes is in the fact that a good hunting cat reduces the mouse and rat population and the snakes, finding no livelihood around the place, seek better hunting grounds since these rodents are essential in their nutrition.

Many cats never eat their prey. But cats that do eat a bird if they catch it will often leave other prey uneaten. Shrews are a favorite prey for many cats and far more difficult to catch than mice, being much smaller and more agile. But a good hunting cat may very well catch everything it can from crickets and cockroaches to rats, lizards and even snakes.

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Newcastle gets disappointing draw in Daglish debut

LONDON (AP) — New manager, same old Newcastle.

Newcastle, leading 2-0 in the 82nd minute in its first league game under new manager Kenny Dalglish, managed only a 2-2 draw yesterday as Southampton's Neil Maddison scored in the 88th and Matt Le Tissier got the equalizer just moments later.

Newcastle went ahead 1-0 on Les Ferdinand's 14th goal of the season in the 14th minute, and Lee Clark made it 2-0 in the 82nd as Newcastle's lead — and three points for a victory — seemed safe.

Maddison's goal made a game of it, and Le Tissier's strike from 25 yards in the final seconds ruined Dalglish's debut. The Magpies now have failed to win an away match in three months and still haven't won at Southampton since 1972.

The disappointing draw against one of the Premier League's weakest sides left Newcastle with 39 points in fourth place, seven behind leaders Liverpool.

Liverpool, which had scored only one goal in its last three league games, got strikes from Jamie Carragher, Stan Collymore and Robbie Fowler in a 3-0 win at home over Aston Villa.

The victory allowed Liverpool to keep its two-point lead over No. 2 Manchester United, which picked up a 2-0 win at Coventry

with second-half goals from Ryan Giggs and Norway's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Liverpool has 46 points in 24 games to 44 for Manchester United in 23. Third-place Arsenal, with 40 points, plays at home today to Everton with today's other match pitting Nottingham Forest at home against Tottenham.

Chelsea 3, Derby 1 (2-1) Chelsea stayed eight points behind league-leading Liverpool on a 36th minute goal from Dennis Wise, a penalty from France's Frank Leboeuf in the 44th, and the insurance goal in the 85th by Paul Hughes.

Derby's only goal came in the 25th from Aljosa Asanovic. Derby is now winless in its last seven games, and Chelsea has only one loss in the same span of time.

Coventry 0, Man. Utd. 2 (0-0) Manchester stretched its undefeated string in the Premier League to 11 games behind a goal in the 60th from Giggs and another in the 79th by Solskjaer. United also kept its good defensive string intact, having now allowed only one goal in the last seven cup and league games. The loss for Coventry was only its second in the last seven games under new manager Gordon Strachan.

Leicester 1, Wimbledon 0 (0-0) Leicester, struggling against possible relegation, stopped the league's most consistent team on a



TIED UP — Chelsea forward Gianfranco Zola (right) tries to get the ball away from Derby defender Matt Carbon. (Reuters)

goal in the 73rd by Emile Heskey. The loss was only Wimbledon's second in its last 25 games.

Liverpool 3, Aston Villa 0 (0-0) Liverpool, which had scored only one goal in its last three Premier League games, got on track with a goal in the 50th from Carragher, another from Collymore in the 58th, and the final goal in the 63rd minute by Fowler.

Middlesbrough, England's most troubled team, snapped out of it with a big victory. But despite the win, Boro is still lodged in last place with only 18 points in 23 games. Boro got goals from Fabrizio Ravanelli on a penalty in the 14th, and the second from Gianluca Festa. Festa of Italy joined the team this week on a £2.7 million transfer from Inter

Milan. Other goals were from Brazilians Emerson and Juninho. Mark Pembroke scored twice for Sheffield Wednesday.

Southamp. 2, Newcastle 2 (0-1) A bad start for manager Dalglish as the Magpies blew a 2-0 lead with just eight minutes to play. Ferdinand and Clark gave the Magpies the lead, but Maddison and Le Tissier scored in the final minutes to salvage the draw for lowly Southampton.

Sunder. 0, Blackburn 0 (0-0) The scoreless draw left Sunderland with 23 points in 28 games and Blackburn with 24 points in 22.

Leading goalscorers

(league goals in parentheses)

Premier League: Ian Wright, Arsenal, 23 (16); Robbie Fowler, Liverpool, 20 (12); Alan Shearer, Newcastle, 19 (16); Fabrizio Ravanelli, Middlesbrough, 19 (10); Dwight Yorke, Aston Villa, 19 (12); Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Man. United, 12 (11); Matthew Le Tissier, Southampton, 12 (10); Elton John, Wimbledon, 10 (8); Chris Sutton, Blackburn, 10 (8); Marcus Gayle, Wimbledon, 10 (8); David Beckham, Man. United, 10 (7).

Division One: Mike Sheron, Stoke, 21 (16); John McGinley, Bolton, 20 (15); Nathan Blake, Bolton, 18 (15); Nigel Jenson, Oxford United, 18 (13); John Aldridge, Tranmere, 17 (15); Andy Payton, Huddersfield, 14 (12); Trevor Morley, Reading, 13 (12); Tony Kayor, Port Vale, 13 (10); Steve Bull, Wolves, 12 (12); Bruce Dyer, Crystal Palace, 12 (11); David Hopkin, Crystal Palace, 12 (10).

49ers' Mariucci thrust into spotlight

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The idea was to bring Steve Mariucci along slowly, make him the 49ers offensive coordinator for a season or two and then promote him to head coach.

George Seifert's abrupt resignation accelerated that notion, Mariucci, despite only a year's head coaching experience, was hired Thursday to succeed Seifert as 49ers coach.

"They've had some of the greatest coaches maybe that have ever coached this game," said Mariucci, who during Thursday's news conference posed with his predecessors, Seifert and Bill Walsh. The two, who remain with the team in consulting roles, combined to lead San Francisco to five Super Bowl wins since 1981.

"My hope is to continue that excellence," added Mariucci, 46, as California's coach in 1996. "My goals are the same goals as the 49ers organization, the same goals as the players have, the same goals as the fans have — to have another parade after winning a championship."

During a dinner meeting with Policy last Sunday, Mariucci, 41, was offered the offensive coordinator's job with assurances he would become the head coach in a year or two when Seifert was expected to step down.

Seifert, though, returned from a weeklong fishing trip to Mexico and told Policy on Tuesday night that he wanted to step down now. After consulting with club owner Eddie DeBartolo, Policy said he called Mariucci almost immediately to upgrade the offer.

"It happened so fast, it was the most unusual turn of events here in the last few days," Mariucci said.

DeBartolo said there were two main reasons he hired Mariucci.

"We think he's a great talent and we think he fits the 49er image to a T," DeBartolo said. "If this man is given the time that he needs, and no one gets rambunctious, then he will do the type of job that we hired him to do. He has a great history in his short years in this field."

Mariucci is just the third coach for the 49ers in 18 years and the first person from outside the 49ers' organization to be selected for the job since Walsh arrived in 1979 and installed his pioneering West Coast offense.

Seifert was defensive coordinator under Walsh when he ascended to the head coaching job in 1989. In eight years, he compiled the highest winning percentage in NFL history while surpassing Walsh, a Hall of Famer, as the team's winningest coach.

Mariucci said he would benefit from having both Walsh and Seifert around.

"There's a certain comfort that I have knowing Bill Walsh and George Seifert," he said. "There are people that will stay with the organization. There are people I can lean on. I'm not naive enough to think I can do this by myself."

The decision to hire a newcomer was reflective of the 49ers' desire to instill "imagination, to a degree youth and a more creative anticipation of what the game has to offer," Policy said.

"We'll let him grow into the job. We hope he possesses the kind of talent that will take us to the next level."

"The 49ers organization is in desperate need of psychotherapy. Perhaps the standards we set are ludicrous. Perhaps what we need to do is develop a more pragmatic approach to winning in the NFL without losing our edge."

Before Mariucci came to Cal, he spent four years as an assistant with the Super Bowl-bound Green Bay Packers, getting much of the credit for turning Brett Favre into a two-time NFL MVP.

His Cal team began the 1996 season with a 5-0 record, but lost six of its last seven games, including a defeat by Navy in the Aloha Bowl. Under Mariucci, Favre became the youngest quarterback in NFL history to play in the Pro Bowl. Cal quarterback Pat Barnes led the Pac-10 in passing efficiency this season.

Mariucci didn't work with Walsh, but was no stranger to his offense as a disciple of Packers coach Mike Holmgren, with whom he spent four years as quarterbacks coach.

Holmgren, whose Packers knocked the 49ers out of the playoffs the last two years, is a former 49ers offensive coordinator.

The fate of Seifert's assistants was uncertain, though offensive coordinator Marc Trestman, whose play calls were blamed in part for a drop in the 49ers' offense, is "gone," DeBartolo said.

No one else on the coaching staff was considered for Seifert's job, including defensive coordinator Pete Carroll.

Sanchez Vicario upset by little-known van Roost

MELBOURNE (AP) — She was about to serve for the match against the world's No. 3-ranked woman tennis player, her arm hurt, and she was too nervous to even remember the score.

One arm massage and five points later, Dominique van Roost still couldn't calm down, but this time it was because she had beaten Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 1-6, 6-4, 8-6 and advanced to the women's last 16 of the Australian Open.

The 23-year-old Belgian had trailed 2-5 in the final set yesterday, but pounded a series of winners and served once for the match at 6-5. She lost that game, but forged ahead again by breaking Sanchez Vicario for the fourth time of the set.

This time, she called for the trainer, who massaged and stretched the arm and asked van Roost the score.

"I totally didn't know... I was so nervous," she admitted later.

This was the first time Sanchez Vicario had failed to make at least the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament since her second-round departure at Wimbledon in 1992. In the meantime, she has won the French and US Opens and been a losing finalist seven times.

The 23-year-old van Roost, on the other hand, has won just two small tournaments — last year in Wales and last week in Hobart, Australia. Her best previous Grand Slam performance was reaching the fourth round of the Australian Open in 1992, shortly after she turned pro.

"No, no, no," van Roost said when asked if she was well-known back in Belgium.

Van Roost hit 23 of her 46 winners in the final set, while Sanchez Vicario had only nine the whole match. The Spanish player wasn't saved by her edge in unforced errors: 31 to 68.

Sanchez Vicario was one of two Spanish seeds eliminated yesterday. Men's No. 16 Alberto Berasategui retired with leg cramps while trailing Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty 6-3, 7-6 (7-3), 6-7 (4-7), 2-0.

Hrbaty now faces top-seeded Pete Sampras, who trounced Mark Woodforde 6-1, 6-0, 6-1 in just 79 minutes despite roars of support for the Australian from the center court crowd of 15,000.

Woodforde, who never has beaten Sampras in nine tries but has given him trouble in the past with his variety of spins, reached the semifinals here last year. On the way, he beat fellow Australian Mark Philippoussis, the man who eliminated Sampras.

This time, Sampras served



Pete Sampras trounced Australia's Mark Woodforde in just 79 minutes to the disappointment of the home crowd. (Reuters)

sharply and passed with precision, never letting Woodforde play his game. He ended with a spectacular leaping overhead.

No. 3 Goran Ivanisevic also advanced, beating American Chris Woodruff 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-1. He next meets Norwegian Christian Rind, a 7-6 (8-6), 6-7 (3-7), 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) winner over South African Neville Godwin.

No. 5 Thomas Muster survived four set points in the second set and won 6-4, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 against German qualifier Jens Knippschild, setting up a meeting with No. 11 Jim Courier, who beat fellow American Jeff Tarango 6-1, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3.

No. 8 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa advanced to a meeting with No. 10 Albert Costa of Spain. Ferreira beat Italy's Renzo Furlan 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 6-1. Costa defeated Australian Scott Draper 6-4, 6-2, 7-5.

In women's matches, No. 4 Martina Hingis, a 16-year-old who has rocketed up the rankings, cruised past Austrian Barbara Schett 6-2, 6-1. She next meets

Romania's Ruxandra Dragomir, who beat American qualifier Kristina Brandt 6-1, 6-1.

No. 8 Ima Spirea of Romania beat Silvia Farina of Italy 6-1, 6-3; No. 9 Karina Habudova of Slovakia beat Taiwan's Shi-Ting Wang 6-3, 7-6 (7-5); No. 14 Mary Joe Fernandez defeated Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia 6-2, 6-1; and No. 15 Chanda Rubin ousted Czech Sandra Kleinova 6-1, 6-3.

Spirea now meets Habudova. Fernandez plays Swiss player Patty Schnyder, a 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 winner over Polish qualifier Magdalena Grybowska, and Rubin plays van Roost.

Van Roost said that last year, her goal was to go to the Olympics, which she did, but she lost to Sanchez Vicario in the first round. This year, her goal was to beat a top 10 player for the first time, and she has done that already.

"I was playing well last week so I had a lot of confidence, but when I started the match I was nervous of course," van Roost bubbled. "For me it was the first experience in a Grand Slam stadium."

Friday's action	
How Wimbledon players fared today	
Men (first round)	
Michael Chang (22, United States) def. Tim Laine (19, Romania) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2	
Thomas Enqvist (7, Sweden) def. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 7-6 (10-8), 6-2, 6-2	
Marcelo Rios (18, Chile) def. Gilbert Schaller (Austria) 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 6-2	
Paul Hanley (19, Great Britain) def. Andrei Medvedev (Russia) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2	
Women (first round)	
Steffi Graf (1, Germany) def. Justine Henin (Belgium) 6-2, 6-2	
Conchita Martinez (2, Spain) def. Anna Kournikova (Russia) 6-2, 6-2	
Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (3, Spain) def. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus) 6-2, 6-2	
Lindsay Davenport (7, United States) def. Francesca Schiavone (Italy) 6-2, 6-2	
Amel Begovic (12, South Africa) def. Maria Luchinskaya (Russia) 6-2, 6-2	
Sabine Haverkamp (14, Belgium) def. Kristina Brandt (Germany) 6-2, 6-2	



CHANGING OF THE GUARD — San Francisco's new head coach Steve Mariucci (center) shakes hands with former coach George Seifert as Bill Walsh, another former 49ers coach, looks on at a press conference on Thursday. (Reuters)

Arizona expansion club assigned to NL, Tampa Bay to AL

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Trading players is common in baseball. League swapping teams may be next.

The Arizona Diamondbacks were put in the National League and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in the American League during a nine-hour owners' meeting Thursday that may prompt an eventual realignment.

A group of eight AL teams threatened Wednesday night to block the expansion assignments, but six of them changed their minds during Thursday's meeting as owners agreed to establish a committee to examine realignment and the schedule format for 1998 and the future.

"There has been a growing realization that we have to look at geographical realignment," acting commissioner Bud Selig said.

The committee, chaired by Boston Red Sox CEO John Harrington, could recommend league switches for existing franchises.

The committee is to report by June 30

and owners are to vote by Sept. 30.

"It is entirely possible that as this committee moves forward now that teams could be switching leagues, (and divisions) within leagues," Selig said.

League constitutions say no team can be forced to switch leagues against its will.

Eleven votes in each league were needed to approve the assignments for the Diamondbacks and Devil Rays. NL teams voted 14-0 to approve and AL teams voted 12-2, with Kansas City and Texas in the opposition.

In a straw poll Wednesday, AL owners rejected the plan 8-6. The New York Yankees, Toronto Blue Jays and Anaheim Angels changed their minds early Thursday, and the Chicago White Sox, Seattle Mariners and Oakland Athletics followed in the afternoon.

"This has been an intense 24 hours," Selig said.

While division assignments weren't made — those will come "reasonably soon," Selig said — it appears certain

Arizona will wind up in the NL West. If Tampa Bay is put in the AL East, one team will have to move to the Central and one will have to move from the Central to the West.

"We're the only American League team in the Southeast," said Tampa Bay CEO Vince Naimoli, happy the Devil Rays will have the territory to themselves.

Selig was furious after Wednesday's AL straw vote, calling in Athletics president Sandy Alderson and Angels president Tony Tavares for meetings at about midnight MST Wednesday.

Some AL teams were concerned they would have additional games out of their time zone, causing early and late television starts that could decrease ratings and revenue. Rangers president Tom Schieffer raised the issue and surprised Selig when other teams supported him.

During the joint meeting of both leagues Thursday, some officials suggested a change in the schedule for inter-league

play as a solution, several sources said on the condition they not be identified.

"We're the only American League team in the Southeast."

—Tampa Bay CEO Vince Naimoli

Under the formula that starts this season, NL East teams play a three-game series against each AL East team. NL Central teams play a three-game series against each AL Central team and NL West teams play two-game home and road series against each AL West team.

The assumption was that with expansion, the NL East teams would play the AL Central or West in 1998, the NL

Central would play the AL East or West, and the NL West would play the AL East or Central.

While not a formal part of Thursday's vote, owners appear to have reached an understanding that they may designate annual inter-league games against natural rivals, such as New York's Mets and Yankees, Chicago's Cubs and White Sox, the Los Angeles area's Dodgers and Angels, the San Francisco Bay area's Giants and Athletics, Texas' Rangers and Astros, Canada's Blue Jays and Expos, Missouri's Cardinals and Royals and Florida's Marlins and Devil Rays.

Under the current format, these teams would meet every four seasons.

AL owners, who last expanded in 1977, had wanted both new teams. However, NL owners, who expanded in 1993, wanted Phoenix because of its proximity to Los Angeles, San Diego and Colorado. Diamondbacks CEO Jerry Colangelo repeatedly attended NL meetings during the past two years and avoid-

ed AL gatherings.

"I was outspoken from day one," Colangelo said. "I think that upset a number of people in the American League along the way."

The Diamondbacks held a huge party Thursday night to celebrate joining the NL, but the gathering was delayed the extended meeting, which also pushed back a news conference that designated the Boys & Girls Clubs of America as baseball's official charity. The Devil Rays will hold a celebration Friday morning in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Colangelo said the franchise agreements for the expansion teams give other owners a window from 2000-2002 to change the league assignments.

In another move, owners formally decided the ruling executive council will be the search committee for a new commissioner.

While no search chairman was chosen, Colorado Rockies CEO Jerry McMorris remains the favorite for the job.

WHERE

Where are the best places to go for...
 1. **Hotels:** The Ritz-Carlton, New York City, 211 W. 67th St., New York City, 212-760-6000.
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Ashkelon remains top, Netanya climbs to second

By DEREK FATTAL

The Second Division's "match of the season" between leader Hapoel Ashkelon and former second-placed Hakoah Ramat Gan was decided by a last minute goal, from the boot of Ashkelon substitute Shlomi Amar. The script for the match appeared to have been lifted from *Boy's Own* as Amar had been on the field for less than a minute before scoring with his first touch of the game.

Ashkelon had the better chances in a physical match that provided more yellow cards - seven to be exact - than goal-mouth action. Ashkelon monopolized possession and hit the woodwork twice through Eran Prizand and Itzik Ismael before Amar scored after receiving the ball from a Yossi Shoshana pass on the left flank.

Amar's goal ensured that Ashkelon remained at the top of the division at the season's

SECOND DIVISION

P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff.	Pts
Hapoel Ashkelon	15	11	1	3	21	9	12
Maccabi Netanya	15	8	4	3	26	17	9
Hakoah Ramat Gan	15	8	3	4	26	14	12
Ironi Ashdod	15	7	6	4	24	15	9
Hapoel Bat Yam	15	7	4	4	22	13	9
Maccabi Kfar Kana	15	6	4	5	19	23	4
Maccabi Kiryat Gat	15	5	6	4	14	18	4
Hapoel Ashdod	15	5	5	5	21	17	4
Hapoel Ramat Gan	15	4	6	5	14	12	2
Ness Ziona	15	5	3	7	17	22	5
Maccabi Acre	15	4	5	6	14	18	4
Maccabi Jaffa	15	4	7	4	21	1	1
Betar Tel Aviv	15	4	4	7	14	21	7
Maccabi Yavne	15	4	2	9	15	25	10
Hapoel Kiryat Shmona	15	2	6	7	11	23	12
Hapoel Hadera	15	1	7	7	10	22	12
Totals:	240	85	70	85	290	290	325

Hapoel Bat Yam	2	Maccabi Acre	1
Hapoel Ashkelon	1	Hakoah Ramat Gan	0
Hapoel Kiryat Shmona	1	Ironi Ashdod	1
Maccabi Netanya	2	Betar Tel Aviv	0
Maccabi Kfar Kana	3	Maccabi Kiryat Gat	3
Hapoel Ashdod	0	Maccabi Yavne	0
Hapoel Ramat Gan	0	Ness Ziona	0
Maccabi Jaffa	5	Hapoel Hadera	0

This week's winning Sportstoto line: 1,1,X,1,X,1,X,2,X,1,2,1,X
This week's winning Toto Plus line: XXX,1,1,1,X,2,X,1,2,1,X
Winning Tototek numbers: 3, 5, 7, 9, 15, 23, 27

WHERE TO GO

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TEL AVIV
Museums

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EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdon, 670-6660; Basmal, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Ma'ayan Haim Tzahalon, 98.
Yerushalayim, 681-4939; Kupa Holim Maccabi, 7 Ha-Shila, 546-5558. Till 3 a.m. Monday.
Pharmacia Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040. Till midnight.
Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London Ministore Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Superpharm, 3 Ostshinsky, Kfar Sava, 765-8889.
Netanya: Porat, 76 Petah Tikva, 634-0967.
Haifa: Hanassi Denya, 99. Abba Khouhy, 834-1113.
Krayot area: Motzkin, 64 Moshe Goshen, Kiryat Motzkin, 873-7243.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (c.m. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mail, 857-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Sheare Zedek (internal, obstetrics, ENT); Bikur Holim (surgery); Hadassah Ein Kerem (orthopedics, pediatrics, ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado. 100.
POLICE 102
FIRE 101
FIRST AID 101
Magen David Adom 101
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in

Mac. TA head meets with Ferguson

By DEREK FATTAL

Maccabi Tel Aviv's administrative chief Tamir Gilat met with Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson in England yesterday to discuss the Premier League champion's interest in Tel Aviv center-half Gadi Bruner. The meeting was held in a hotel prior to United's match against Coventry. Gilat explained to Ferguson his club's reluctance to release Bruner for trials over the summer due to its early season involvement in the European Cup preliminary round, but gave the green light for Bruner to have a try-out with the English doublet next month once he has obtained full match fitness.

Ferguson is keen to draft another quality central defender into his squad given injuries sustained this season by Gary Pallister, and David May, as the team faces a demanding fixture schedule of league, European Cup and FA Cup matches.

Avi Nimni, the other Maccabi player tipped to be a likely candidate for the Premier League, returned home from a week's trial with Birmingham club Aston Villa on Friday. The decision regarding Nimni's future with the Birmingham club now rests in the hands of manager Brian Little. Nimni has also been courted by Sheffield Wednesday.

In other soccer news, Yossi Ben-Ayoun this weekend announced his decision to quit Ajax Amsterdam, where he has been learning his trade within the club's famed youth framework.

The young Hapoel Beersheba player stated that it had become increasingly difficult for him to continue in the Dutch capital with just his father to support him, and cited loneliness as the primary reason for his decision to return to Israel.

5 minutes of mayhem rock Scotland in Five Nations opener

LONDON (Reuters) - Five minutes of Murrayfield mayhem signaled Wales' continued rugby renaissance on an opening day of the Five Nations championship which saw victories for both visiting teams yesterday.

A burst of three tries inside five second half minutes led Wales to a thumping 34-19 triumph over a shell-shocked Scotland while France opened its campaign with a more expected 32-15 win against Ireland in Dublin.

French flair deservedly won the day at Lansdowne Road after five penalties from recalled fly-half Eric Elwood had briefly put a dogged Ireland 15-12 in the lead. But then in stepped left-wing David Venditt to complete a hat-trick of tries as holes appeared in Ireland's defense. The more the Irish attempted to attack, the more in control the French became.

Newly-appointed coach Brian Ashton admitted his side had capitulated in the latter stages.

"For 60 minutes we competed remarkably well. Unfortunately Test rugby matches last 80 minutes and in the last 20 we lost our shape," he said.

Not that French coach Jean-Claude Skrela was entirely happy either, saying his team had given the ball away too often and adding they had a lot of work to do ahead of the remaining Five Nations matches.

Ireland has not beaten France in Dublin since 1983, somewhat surprisingly exactly the same length of time since it last lost to Wales in Cardiff where it plays its next Five Nations fixture.

That record may be difficult to keep intact on the evidence of Wales' second half performance against Scotland.

Scotland had turned round 13-10 ahead and quickly added a further three points before a nightmare five minutes shattered its hopes and its confidence.

Full-back Neil Jenkins, who became only the fifth player to amass more than 500 points in Test rugby, cut in from the left to touch down; fly-half Arwel Thomas made the most of a fortunate bounce to score a runaway try and winger Iwan Evans won the chase for a kick ahead to add another.

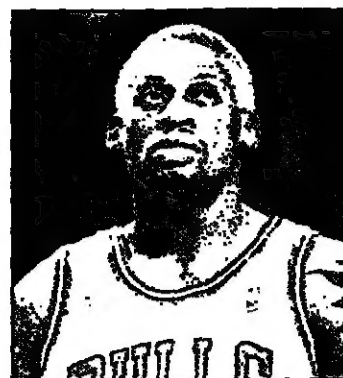
Scotland never looked like recovering.

Scottish manager Arthur Hastie called it a "fatal five minutes" while captain Rob Wainwright said it was a lack of concentration which cost them the game.

	GP	W	D	L	PF	PA	Pts
France	1	1	0	0	32	15	2
Wales	1	1	0	0	34	19	2
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	1	0	0	1	15	32	0
Ireland	1	0	0	1	15	32	0

Rodman suspended

Bulls star banned from play for at least 11 games



Dennis Rodman (AP)

CHICAGO (AP) - Dennis Rodman kicked a court-side photographer and the NBA kicked back.

Rodman, the flamboyant Chicago Bulls forward, was given the second-longest suspension in league history on Friday. The NBA ordered him to sit out at least 11 games, undergo counseling and pay a \$25,000 fine.

His latest outburst, kicking court-side cameraman Eugene Amos in the groin during a game Wednesday night at Minneapolis, is the most expensive of Rodman's strange and eventful career.

"He's certainly lost his incentive money. I would think the 11 games of his non-deferred money is going to be well over a million dollars," Bulls general manager Jerry Krause said.

Rodman has a one-year, \$9 million contract, calling for \$6.4 million this season and the remaining \$2.6 million to be paid in installments every three years between 2024 and 2039. To earn all of his incentives this season, reports say he would have to play 79 games.

It is the third suspension for Rodman since he joined the Bulls in October 1995. Last season, he helped Chicago to a league-record 72 wins and the NBA title.

The latest suspension, which began Friday night when the Bulls played Milwaukee, could be longer than 11 games, a stretch that runs through the February 9 All-Star Game. After undergoing counseling, Rodman must meet after the break with NBA commis-

sioner David Stern and tell him why he should be reinstated.

"Until Dennis can provide meaningful assurances that he will conform his conduct on the playing court to acceptable standards - including not placing others at physical risk - his suspension will continue," Stern said in New York.

Krause said he informed the team of the suspension Friday morning at a meeting attended by Rodman, Rodman, the NBA's leading rebounder, was not available for comment.

The National Basketball Players Association said it would take legal action to challenge the penalties against Rodman and would challenge the league's policy allowing photographers to sit near the playing surface.

"While we do not condone Dennis' actions, the discipline the league seeks to impose is excessive and unprecedented," said Bill

Hunter, executive director of the NBPA.

The only longer suspension of an NBA player came in 1977 when Kermit Washington of the Los Angeles Lakers was suspended 26 games for punching Houston's Rudy Tomjanovich.

"This is excessive and unjust," said Rodman's agent, Dwight Manley. "There's no precedent for it whatsoever, and to say he needs professional help from a counselor is unfair. He's perfectly sane and cognizant, and besides, it's a team's job to attend to a player's mental affairs."

Rodman was suspended by the team for two games earlier this season for making profane comments during a live postgame TV interview. Last season he was suspended by the league for six games after head-butting a referee.

Rodman missed 18 games last season because of injury and suspension; the Bulls went 15-3 during the span.

Amos, meanwhile, talked to police Friday morning.

"I'm embarrassed," he said. "I feel really humiliated. I grew up in Chicago and the Bulls have been my idols for as long as I can remember. I'm very hurt by this, very hurt indeed."

Minneapolis police Sgt. Pete Jackson said his department hasn't yet decided whether to file charges against Rodman. If an assault charge is filed, it most likely will be fifth-degree assault, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	28	10	.730
New York	19	18	.514
Washington	15	19	.441
Orlando	10	25	.286
Boston	9	26	.257
Philadelphia	8	29	.216

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	24	9	.685
Detroit	27	6	.750
Atlanta	24	11	.686
Cleveland	21	16	.568
Charlotte	21	16	.568
Milwaukee	18	18	.500
Indiana	17	19	.472
Toronto	13	24	.351

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	30	9	.769
Utah	26	12	.684
Minnesota	16	21	.432
Dallas	12	23	.343
San Antonio	10	26	.278
Denver	10	26	.278
Vancouver	7	32	.179

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	28	11	.718
Seattle	28	11	.718
Portland	21	17	.553
Golden State	15	22	.405
Sacramento	16	24	.400
L.A. Clippers	14	24	.362
Phoenix	13	25	.342

FRIDAY'S NBA RESULTS:

New Jersey 105, Philadelphia 103 (OT)
Miami 103, Washington 92
Golden State 98, Indiana 91
Chicago 100, Milwaukee 73
Houston 88, Dallas 78
San Antonio 96, Sacramento 76
Utah 106, Vancouver 68
Toronto 94, Portland 82
Seattle 96, Cleveland 84

THURSDAY'S NBA RESULTS:

Miami 102, Boston 94
Atlanta 78, Orlando 67
Houston 89, Sacramento 80
Denver 88, Cleveland 87 (OT)
Utah 95, Phoenix 91
Portland 102, L.A. Lakers 98

India holds 89-run lead over S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Javagal Srinath took five wickets yesterday and kept South Africa's batsmen off balance to help India to an 89-run lead after the first innings of the third cricket Test.

Only allrounders Shaun Pollock and Brian McMillan managed significant totals for South Africa, which struggled to 321 all out in response to India's opening innings of 410.

Srinath conceded 104 runs in 25.1 overs, but his pace and bounce forced batters back and claimed five wickets on the day.

Pollock, with a career-best 79, played some dynamic shots and also had luck on his side when a few catchable balls made it past the slips. His total eclipsed the top score ever achieved by his all-rounder father Peter, now a South African selector.

McMillan chipped in with 47 runs, and their sixth-wicket partnership of 112 runs salvaged what could have been a disastrous innings for the home side.

Venkatash Prasad and Saurav Ganguly took two wickets each for India, which is trying to avoid whitewash in the series after losing the first two Tests of the tour.

Chasing India's first innings total of 410, the home side went for runs and paid for it, getting only 47 from openers Andrew Hudson and Gary Kirsten and 13 more from No. 3 Adam Bacher.

Captain Hansie Cronje and Daryll Cullinan began a stubborn stand before lunch, but both fell early into the middle session to put South Africa in trouble. Cronje ended up with 43 and Cullinan 33.

Then came McMillan and Pollock, who battled aggressively until McMillan fell legs before to

Ganguly. Another allrounder, Lance Klusener, stepped in and contributed 22 runs unbeaten.

Pollock eventually went out when he barely edged a Srinath delivery to the wicketkeeper.

India, led by Rahul Dravid's maiden Test century of 148, rolled to its 410 total slowly on an accommodating wicket at Wanderers. The almost two days needed to compile the score, shortened by rain by 28 overs, leave the visitors with two days to bat again and try to bowl South Africa for a pride-restoring victory.

India announced yesterday that wicketkeeper Pankaj Dharmani, who was supposed to return home after the third Test and miss a series of one-day matches, would stay on after a hand injury suffered Friday by middle-order batsman VVS Laxman.

Laxman, who is expected to be out for three weeks, will be flying home along with David Johnson, Venkatash Raju and Woorkeri Raman.

India first innings 410

(R. Dravid 148, S. Ganguly 78)
South Africa first innings (overs 10-0)

A. Hudson c Ashwin b Srinath	18
G. Kirsten b Prasad	29
A. Bacher b Srinath	33
D. Cullinan c Srinath b Ganguly	33
H. Cronje c Ganguly b Srinath	43
B. M. c M. Ganguly	47
S. Pollock c Srinath b Srinath	79
D. Richardson c Ashwin b Ganguly	13
L. Klusener not out	22
A. Donald b Prasad	4
P. Adams c Dravid b Srinath	2
Extras (b-25, nb-9, w-1)	16
Total (all out, 88.1 overs)	321
Fall of wickets: 1-36 (2-64) 3-73 (4-138) 4-147 (5-208) 6-303 (8-318)	
Bowling: Srinath 25.1-3-104-5 (nb), Prasad 20-2-83-2, Kumble 25-5-63-1, Ganguly 7-1-26-0, Ganguly 12-1-36-2	

Pakistan-West Indies

Paceman Waqar Younis and leg



LEADERSHIP QUALITIES - South African captain Hansie Cronje hits a four.

spinner Shahid Afridi combined for seven wickets yesterday to lead Pakistan to a four-wicket win over the West Indies in the first final of the World Series limited-overs cricket tournament.

Star batsman Brian Lara and recent replacement Phil Simmons were both dismissed for ducks as the West Indies lost 6-5 and 24-7 to finish on 179-9 from their 50 overs.

In reply, Ijaz Ahmed Sr. top-scored for Pakistan with 60 runs while Afridi added 53 and Moin

Khan was 38 not out when Pakistan surpassed the West Indies total in the 35th over, finishing at 185-6 after a winning six from Khan.

The second final will be played in Melbourne on Monday, with the third game also at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Wednesday if required.

"You have to give Pakistan credit, they played and bowled well," said West Indies captain Courtney Walsh. "I'm hoping we can turn things around in Melbourne."

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GIVAT

NEWS

in brief

Kahalani's missing mother found

Sara Kahalani, the mother of Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, was found Friday near the Ness Ziona country club, after disappearing from her old age home for about 24 hours.

She was found by a team searching for her. The team included her son's friends. She was found in a confused state and taken to Assaf Harofeh Hospital at Tzrifin. She suffers from Alzheimer's disease, and disappeared Thursday afternoon. Dozens of police and volunteers searched for her, aided by a helicopter, trackers and search dogs. *Itim*

Three held for jewelry theft

Three men were remanded for eight days on Friday afternoon by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court after being apprehended while fleeing the scene of a robbery in which \$100,000 in jewelry was stolen out of a jeweler's car.

Police told the court that the three, Doron Ben-Gigi, 27, of Beit Dagan, Gil Giladi, 31, of Beit Dagan, and Yehoshua Asor, 28, of Ramat Gan, had been planning the crime for six months and are also suspected of a string of other crimes and break-ins. The three were wounded when police struggled to arrest them as they were about to flee in a stolen car.

According to police, they broke in to an apartment in Holon and found car keys, which they used to steal the owner's car. They then used that car and another vehicle to follow jeweler Benjamin Belsiano, and later broke into his car and stole the jewelry. *Itim*

Man threatens to blow up himself, neighbors

A Tiberias man who barricaded himself in his apartment on Friday night and threatened to blow himself and his neighbors up with a gas canister was subdued by police, who broke into the apartment after negotiations with mental health experts failed.

Large forces of police and a special team had arrived at the scene to deal with a possible emergency. Police eventually burst into the apartment, catching the man off guard and apprehending him. The man was sent for psychiatric observation. *Itim*

Swiss give Poland list of wartime accounts

ZURICH (Reuters) — Switzerland gave Poland the names of 53 Poles on Friday, including several Holocaust victims, whose Swiss bank accounts were declared ownerless after World War II and handed over to Warsaw, the foreign ministry said.

The once-secret list of names and account details, compiled by Federal Archives officials from records kept during a 1960s sweep of Swiss banks for lost Holocaust assets, aims to help the original owners' heirs get what is rightfully theirs.

"The Polish authorities have committed themselves to make the list public as soon as possible in order to locate those entitled to restitution," a ministry statement in Bern said. A ministry spokesman declined to reveal their identities, but added: "Most are probably Holocaust victims because they have Jewish names."

In Geneva, a prominent Swiss Jewish bank helping probe allegations that banks are hoarding Nazi victims' unclaimed wealth said he expected hardly any money to be uncovered.

But Hans Baer, honorary chairman of Julius Baer Holding AG, said the country and its banks had to go through the audit so as to emerge with a "certificate of clean health."

Baer serves on an independent panel headed by former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker to check allegations by the World Jewish Congress and

other groups that Swiss banks are still hiding funds Jews stashed here to escape Hitler.

Berne has curtailed banking secrecy to let the panel, which includes representatives of Jewish groups and Swiss banks, review inactive accounts opened before and during World War II. "From an auditing point of view, we can only hope and pray nothing will be found. My suspicion is nothing — plus or minus — will be found because the exercise was done in 1962 and last year," Baer told the American International Club in Geneva. "But that is not the point. The search is to get a certificate of clean health. It has to be done," he added.

In London, the British government admitted on Friday that it had wrongly accused Switzerland of turning over to Allied powers little more than a tenth of the Nazi gold it agreed was in Swiss bank vaults at the end of World War II.

The admission by the Foreign Office of an error in a report it published last September was immediately welcomed by the Swiss Foreign Ministry, who praised its "intellectual honesty."

A revised edition published by the Foreign Office on Friday corrected the figure to SFr500m. — a major difference since in 1946, the dollar was worth SFr4.3.

Israel optimistic over Polish army contracts

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense officials are hopeful that a delayed, early Friday morning meeting between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and his Polish counterpart in Jerusalem paved the way for lucrative Polish military contracts.

Mordechai met with visiting Polish Defense Minister Stanislaw Dobrzanski prior to heading to Hebron to supervise the first day of IDF redeployment there. The meeting was to have taken place the day before, but Mordechai canceled it to be in the Knesset for the debate on the Hebron withdrawal. It was rescheduled only after Dobrzanski, who was accompanying Polish Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, subsequently

complained that Israeli politicians were ignoring him.

"Mordechai apologized and explained to him why he couldn't meet earlier, and he accepted that," said Kuti Mor, responsible for foreign relations at the Defense Ministry who accompanied Mordechai to the working breakfast. "The meeting ended with very strong optimism on both sides."

Dobrzanski told Mordechai he had visited ElOop and Elbit and was very impressed with the upgrading they had to offer and that Israel had a good chance of winning a contract to modernize Polish equipment, Mor said. Dobrzanski also invited Mordechai to visit Poland.

Poland, which is seeking membership to

NATO, is interested in modernizing its military, but Dobrzanski admitted his country was facing difficult challenges due to its shortage of funds. Israeli officials said it was suggested that Israel and Poland work together to upgrade Polish equipment and include a third country to help cover costs.

"They spoke of business and Dobrzanski expressed optimism that even though matters are not closed, Israel was seriously being considered in any upgrades," Mor said. "But we are up against stiff competition."

A consortium of Israeli companies — Elbit, ElOop and Rafael — is bidding to upgrade the Polish Huzar helicopter, but is competing against the US company Rockwell International Corp.



Reaching out

Labor leader Shimon Peres joins members of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach to sing "Reach Out and Touch Someone," during his visit to West Palm Beach, Florida, on Friday.

COMMENT

WJC vs. Swiss: Knockout or self-destruction

By MARILYN HENRY

Watching Switzerland and the World Jewish Congress duke it out in the past year over dormant bank accounts was kind of like watching a match to see if the fatal blow ultimately comes from the opponent or is self-inflicted.

The two sides haven't knocked themselves out yet, but they have come pretty close.

The Swiss have made some moves that seem so inept, you have to wonder: Are these really the people who produce world-renowned precision watches?

The WJC, for its part, suffers from premature articulation. Their first shot in the Swiss war was a dud. Last March, the WJC uncovered the treasure trove of US intelligence files about Swiss-Nazi activities known as "Safehaven."

The first document it released, intended to illustrate how nefarious the banks were, was one sheet that referred to the accounts held by Societe Generale de Surveillance. It turns

out that this Swiss firm was owned by a Latvian-born Jew who helped Jews during the Nazi era, and apparently was a financial backer of the WJC.

They've chosen their targets more carefully since then, with hundreds of intriguing documents that seem to tar the Swiss. But the Swiss need not depend on a barrage from the WJC: They can self-destruct.

Union Bank, for example, stands accused of shredding documents, which would be illegal if the documents are related to Holocaust-era accounts. Union says these are unrelated. True or not, the Swiss once again have shown they have an unerring lack of sense by failing to realize this is not the time to destroy any documents when you are being assailed for refusing to open your records.

At year's end, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, finishing his one-year rotation as Swiss president, said that a demand for a \$250 million fund to compensate Jews who lost assets in the Holocaust "amounts to being

blackmailed and held to ransom," Delamuraz, now Switzerland's economics minister, later apologized — but not before we heard the "B" word.

Not "blackmail." "Boycott."

The World Jewish Congress already seemed to have at least a semi-annual boycott threat. The first came last March 11, when WJC President Edgar Bronfman told Reuters that the WJC executive committee was considering calling for a boycott of Swiss banks to protest the lack of progress in negotiations over the dormant assets.

The second came December 13, when the WJC told Reuters it was delaying until January a decision about whether to urge an international boycott of Swiss banks because of their treatment of Holocaust victims.

This announcement was all the more bizarre because it came two days after the quintessential independent arbiter, Paul Volcker, told a House Banking hearing that things in *l'affaire Suisse* were moving along and that everyone was getting along

just fine. Volcker should know: He heads the committee that is arranging for the audit of unclaimed assets in Swiss banks.

Then there was the WJC's post-Delamuraz boycott threat, coming in part from Jerusalem. It sounded suitably tough and serious — until you counted the number of times the prospect had been raised in less than a year, and realized that Israel cringes at the "B" word. Foreign Minister David Levy warned against a boycott of Swiss banks, because those who remember the Arab variety look for other ways to get someone's attention.

The Jewish community's gratitude for the WJC's success in bringing the Swiss to the negotiating table has tempered its angst about some of the antics.

Indeed, all of this would be comical, except that survivors and heirs are waiting for a just accounting of unclaimed assets. If that day comes, it will be because Volcker managed to keep his eye on the prize, in spite of the shenanigans.

Former informer sues GSS for NIS 3m.

A former General Security Service informer is suing the GSS for NIS 3 million for extraordinary and unprecedented damages. The former Gaza resident and his family were evacuated to Israeli-controlled land after the Oslo accords were implemented and the Palestinians were given power in the Gaza Strip.

The 48-year-old man says that he worked with the GSS for almost 20 years, greatly contributing to the state's security and endangering himself and his family. As a result, when the Palestinian Authority gained power in the Gaza Strip, he was forced to abandon NIS 1.5m. worth of property there.

He is claiming an additional NIS 1.5m. for mental anguish caused by the move and for future lost income because of his difficulty in finding a job in Israel.

His GSS contacts promised him that if he and his family ever were forced to leave Gaza the GSS would provide for them, he said. However, he and his family are now living in a wretched apartment the GSS rented for them and surviving on a monthly stipend of NIS 800, he complained.

In addition, the GSS confiscated his personal weapon and denied his request to move his sons from Gaza, despite threats to their security, he charged.

The State Attorney's Office has not yet responded to the suit, which was filed in the Haifa District Court. The man's lawyer requested that the court rule on the case anyway. Haifa District Court Judge Oded Gershon asked the district attorney to rule on the request. *(Itim)*

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Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	SEA	SKY
Amsterdam	10	15	10	2	cloudy
Berlin	10	15	10	2	cloudy
Buenos Aires	21	26	10	2	cloudy
Cairo	20	24	10	2	cloudy
Chicago	20	24	10	2	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	15	10	2	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	15	10	2	cloudy
Geneva	10	15	10	2	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	10	2	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	29	10	2	clear
London	10	15	10	2	cloudy
Los Angeles	10	15	10	2	cloudy
Madrid	10	15	10	2	cloudy
Moscow	10	15	10	2	cloudy
New York	10	15	10	2	cloudy

220,000 pray on Mount

Ramadan prayers on the Temple Mount were attended by 220,000 worshippers on Friday. Many of those who arrived were Palestinians from the territories who did not have entry permits.

Some 2,000 policemen were on duty to secure the entrances to Jerusalem and the Western Wall Plaza. Police sources attributed the large turnout to the fact that the previous week Palestinians without entry permits managed to attend prayers with relative ease, as part of a policy to avoid confrontation, leading many others to try to attend this week. *(Itim)*

New York
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